Pet Shop of Horrors

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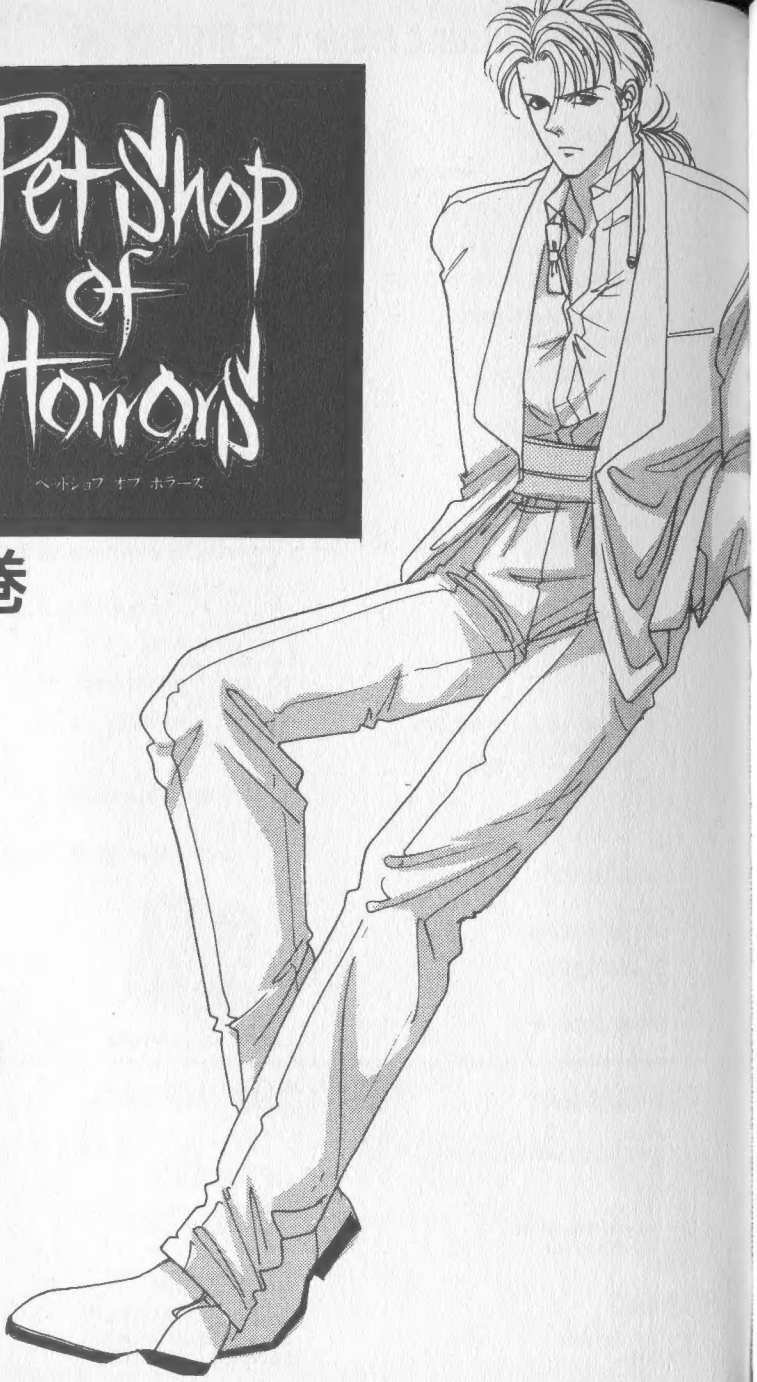

秋乃茉莉

Pet Shop of Horrors

Volume 3

by Matsuri Akino

TOKYOPOP
LOS ANGELES • TOKYO • LONDON

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MANGA

.HACK//LEGEND OF THE TWILIGHT*
ALARGE (December 2003)
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CARDCAPTOR SAKURA: MASTER OF THE CLOW*
CHOBITS*
CHRONICLES OF THE CURSED SWORD
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CORRECTOR YUI
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COWBOY BEBOP: SHOOTING STAR*
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GUNDAM WING: BATTLEFIELD OF PACIFISTS
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MIRACLE GIRLS
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MONSTERS, INC.
PARADISE KISS*
PARASYTE
PEACH GIRL
PEACH GIRL: CHANGE OF HEART*
PET SHOP OF HORRORS*
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PRIEST
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RAVE MASTER*
REALITY CHECK
REBIRTH
REBOUND*
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SAILOR MOON
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SAILOR MOON SCOUT GUIDES

080103

The Story so far

Plumes of mist billow up from the back alleys of Chinatown, home to a variety of merchants of the occult and mystical. A sharp breeze drives the mist out into the crowded streets, revealing here, in the crevices of the concrete jungle, a solitary pet shop. Its proprietor, an enigmatic figure known only as Count D, beckons through his doors the injured and the scarred, introducing them to creatures friendly and bizarre.

Our guide through this mysterious landscape is one Detective Leon Orcot who has traced a series of seemingly unrelated crimes to Count D and his Pet Shop of Horrors. A steadfast skeptic, Leon dismisses as trickery the inexplicable events he witnesses. However, this hard-boiled dick is driven to prove Count D's guilt, or to catch a glimpse of the magic he wields.

Prepare yourselves for four tales of wonder and woe in which lessons are learned and fates foretold.

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A TOKYOPOP® Manga

TOKYOPOP Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

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First published in Japan in 1996 by Ohzora Publishing Co. Tokyo, Japan
English publication rights arranged through Ohzora Publishing Co.

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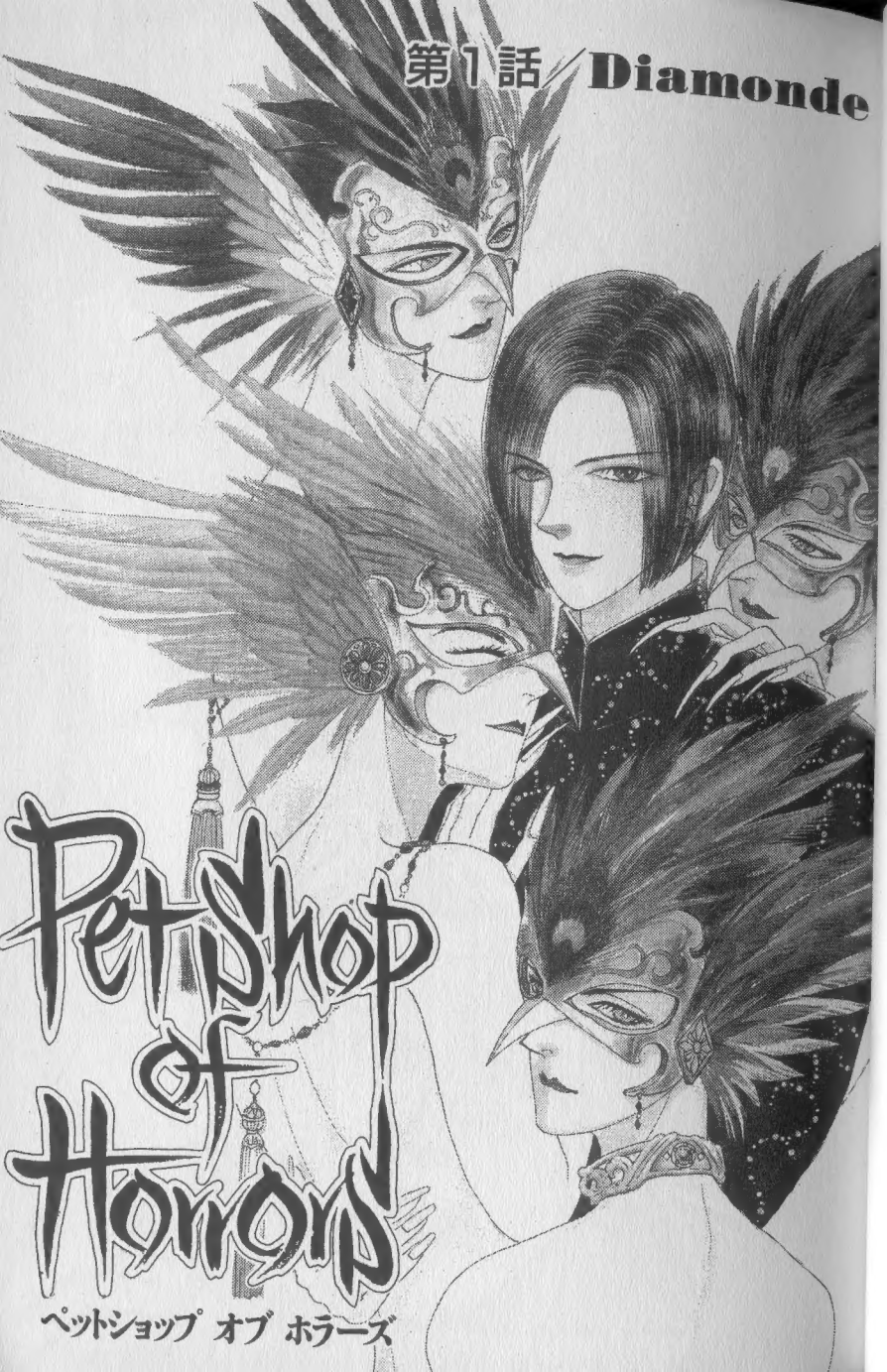
ISBN: 1-59182-365-X

First TOKYOPOP printing: October 2003

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA



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1 Dinonde.....7
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3 Deert.....97
4 Del.....143
Pet Catag.....189

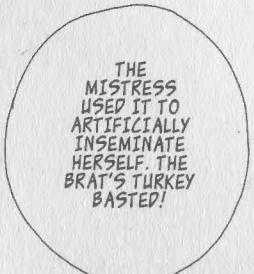
CHECK THE CORNER, IT SHOULD HAVE THE DATE AND LOCATION THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN.
Berlin 1938.
OH YEAH... 1938.
SO THE OLD MAN WAS AN IMPORTANT GUY?
FUNNY. THAT'S MY GRANDFATHER.
DAMN. THE RESEMBLANCE IS FREAKY.
GRANDFATHER?
AFTER THE WAR, HE CAME TO AMERICA AND OPENED A PET STORE.
PET STORE, EH?
HEY, DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO EAT THAT'S NOT SWEET? JUST LOOKING AT THIS STUFF WOULD CAUSE DIABETICS TO GO INTO SHOCK.
DETECTIVE, PERHAPS YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THAT THIS IS NOT A BUFFET?
HEH... YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, I'VE BEEN SO BUSY LATELY, PLUS THERE'S NOTHING AT MY PLACE.
AND HOTEL FOOD IS SO DAMNED EXPENSIVE...
HOTEL ?
SO WHAT'S WITH THE TUXEDO? I THOUGHT YOU ONLY WORE DRESSES.

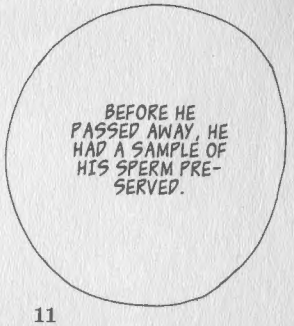
IT'S TOTALLY CRAZY.
AND GUESS WHOSE DEPARTMENT GETS TO PLAY BABYSITTER?
WE'RE WATCHING HER ROUND THE CLOCK. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MANY OFFICERS WE'VE GOT ASSIGNED TO IT.

HELP ME!
AND WHAT BETTER PLACE TO REQUEST SANCTUARY THAN THE HOME OF THE BRAVE? SHE'S CLAIMED POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR JUST ENOUGH TIME TO HAVE HER BABY.
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT'S HARDLY SURPRISING THE GIRL WOULD CHOOSE TO BOLT.

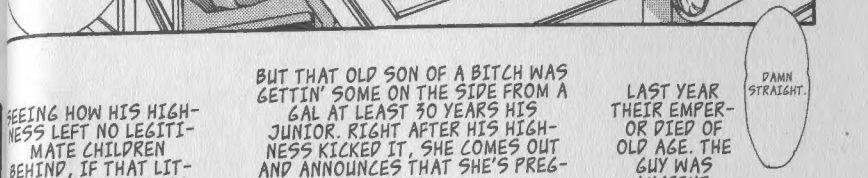
THAT'S THE BEST PART!
THE OLD FART PULLED A FAST ONE ON EVERYONE.

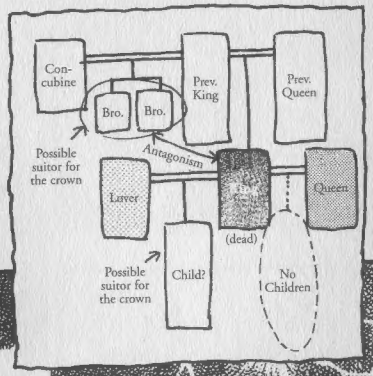
I SEE...
HER CHILD... IS THERE PROOF THAT HE'S REALLY THE KING'S SON?

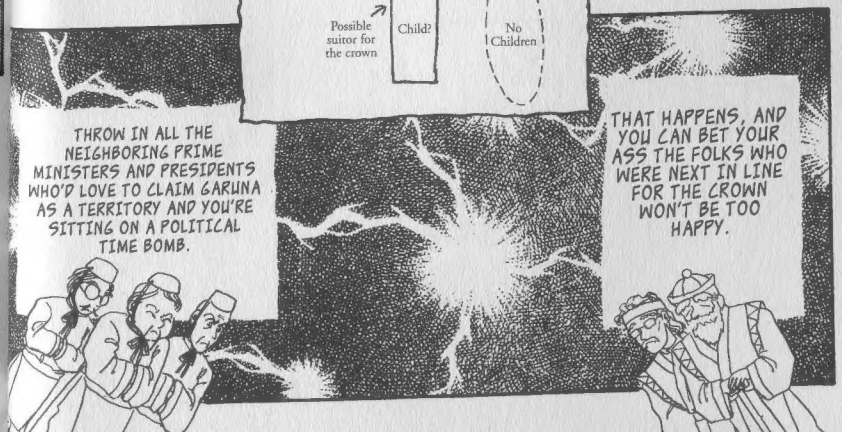

THE MISTRESS USED IT TO ARTIFICIALLY INSEMINATE HERSELF. THE BRAT'S TURKEY BASTED!


BEFORE HE PASSED AWAY, HE HAD A SAMPLE OF HIS SPERM PRESERVED.

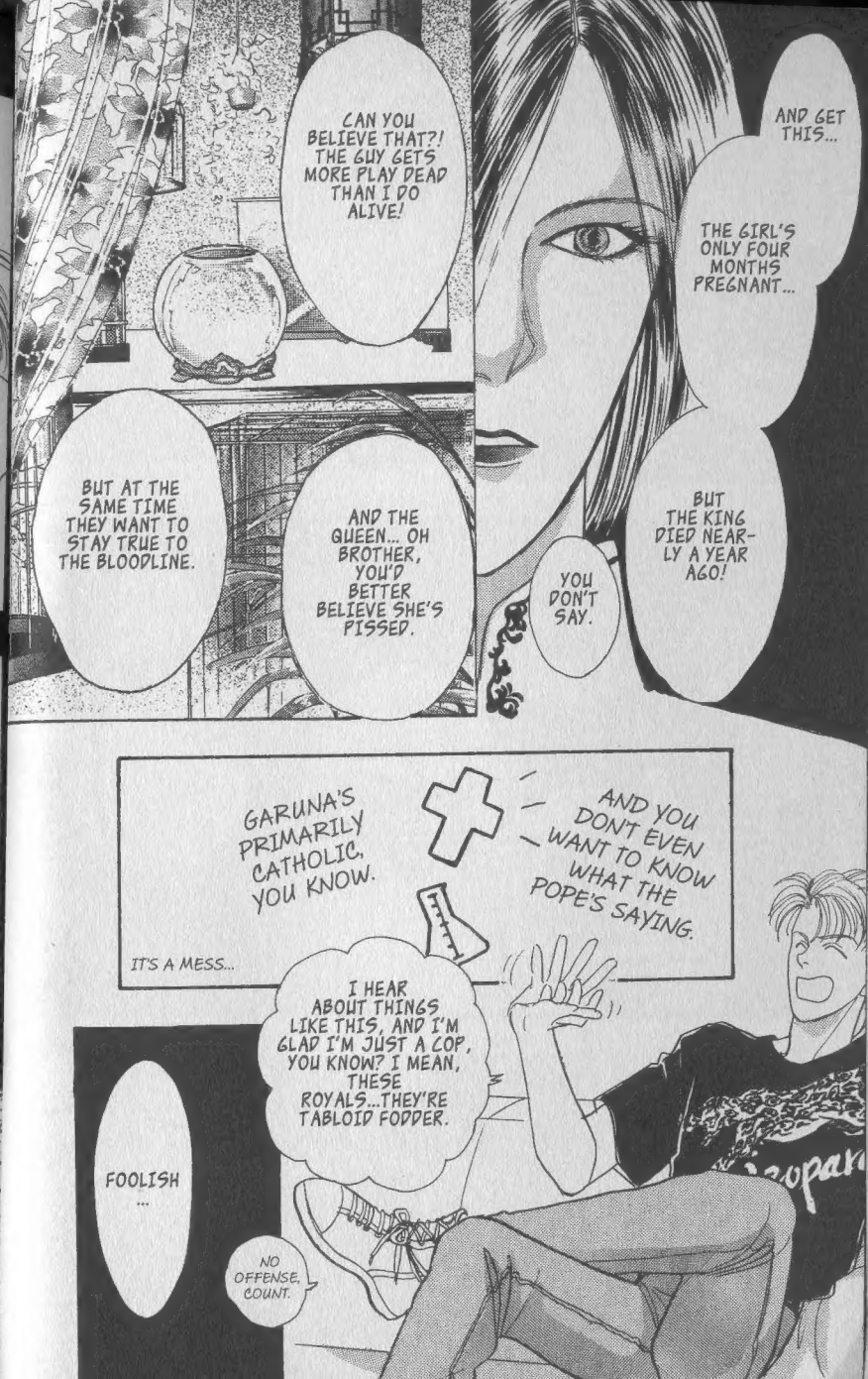
YOU EVER BEEN TO GARUNA? IT'S A SMALL ISLAND OFF THE EAST SINA SEA.
YES... A SMALL COUNTRY WITH A PROPER LINEAGE OF KINGS...
THEY ALSO HAVE SOME OF THE WORLD'S FINEST DIAMOND MINES.

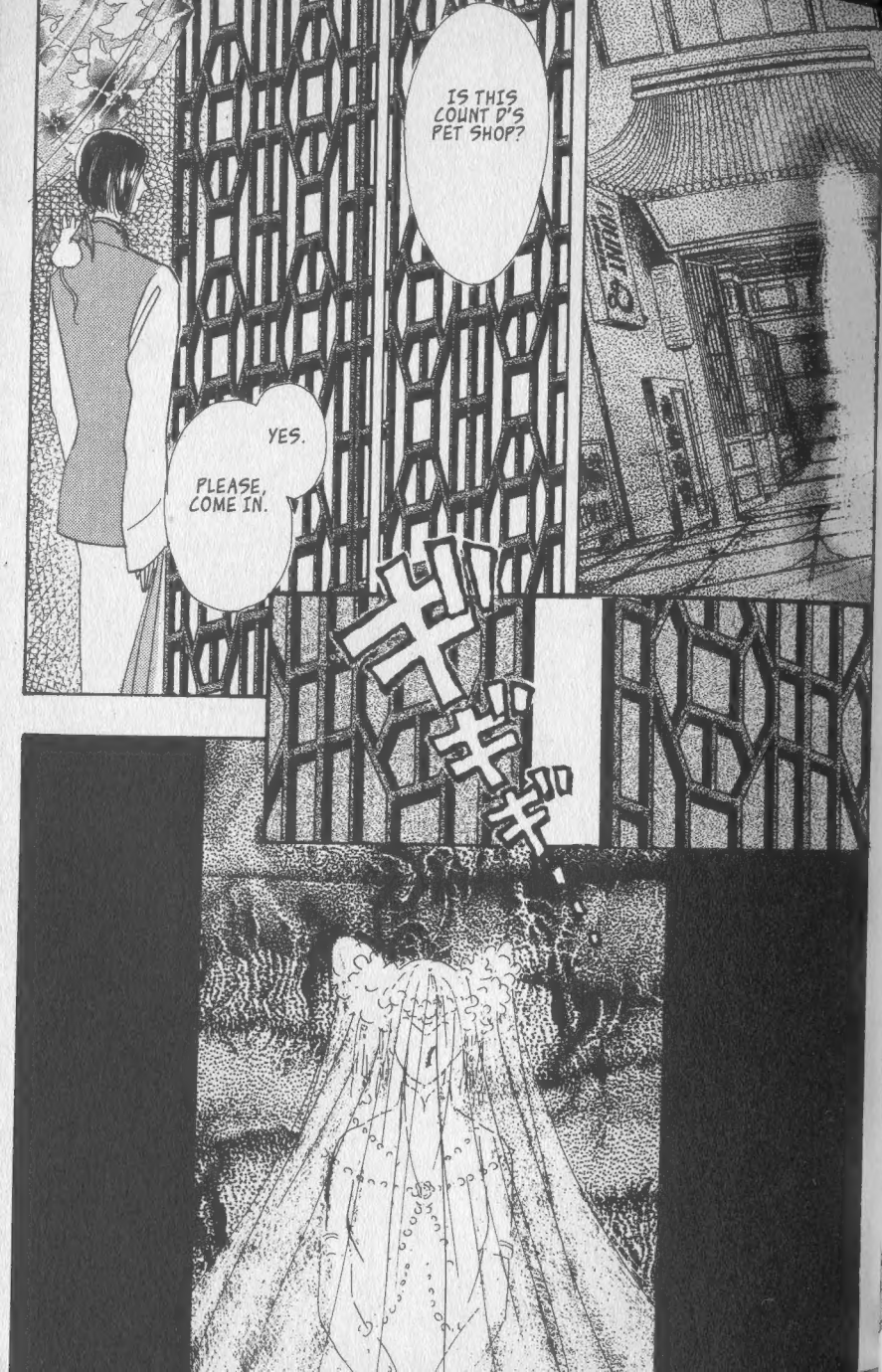

DAMN STRAIGHT.
LAST YEAR THEIR EMPEROR DIED OF OLD AGE. THE GUY WAS ANCIENT.
BUT THAT OLD SON OF A BITCH WAS GETTIN' SOME ON THE SIDE FROM A GAL AT LEAST 30 YEARS HIS JUNIOR. RIGHT AFTER HIS HIGHNESS KICKED IT, SHE COMES OUT AND ANNOUNCES THAT SHE'S PREGNANT.
SEEING HOW HIS HIGHNESS LEFT NO LEGITIMATE CHILDREN BEHIND, IF THAT LITTLE BASTARD'S BORN, HE'S THE LEGAL HEIR OF GARUNA...AND ONE RICH LITTLE BOY.


Concubine
Bro.
Bro.
Prev. King
Prev. Queen
Possible suitor for the crown
Antagonism
Lover
(dead)
Queen
Possible suitor for the crown
Child?
No Children


THROW IN ALL THE NEIGHBORING PRIME MINISTERS AND PRESIDENTS WHO'D LOVE TO CLAIM GARUNA AS A TERRITORY AND YOU'RE SITTING ON A POLITICAL TIME BOMB.
THAT HAPPENS, AND YOU CAN BET YOUR ASS THE FOLKS WHO WERE NEXT IN LINE FOR THE CROWN WON'T BE TOO HAPPY.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW PEOPLE CAN BE SO FOOLISH.
PARDON ?
YEAH, I ENVY YOU SOMETIMES, RUNNING A PET STORE.
ANIMALS ARE SO MUCH SMARTER THAN PEOPLE.
MY RACCOON HAS HAD DIARRHEA ALL WEEK....
YES, AND SPEAKING OF THAT, I MUST GET BACK TO WORK.
AWW! C'MON, MAN! I'M EATING!
I WONDER IF IT'S STRESS...


CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?! THE GUY GETS MORE PLAY DEAD THAN I DO ALIVE!
AND GET THIS...
THE GIRL'S ONLY FOUR MONTHS PREGNANT...
BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEY WANT TO STAY TRUE TO THE BLOODLINE.
AND THE QUEEN... OH BROTHER, YOU'D BETTER BELIEVE SHE'S PISSED.
YOU DON'T SAY.
BUT THE KING DIED NEARLY A YEAR AGO!
GARUNA'S PRIMARILY CATHOLIC, YOU KNOW.
AND YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE POPE'S SAYING.
IT'S A MESS...
I HEAR ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS, AND I'M GLAD I'M JUST A COP, YOU KNOW? I MEAN, THESE ROYALS...THEY'RE TABLOID FODDER.
FOOLISH ...
NO OFFENSE, COUNT.


IS THIS COUNT D'S PET SHOP?
YES. PLEASE, COME IN.
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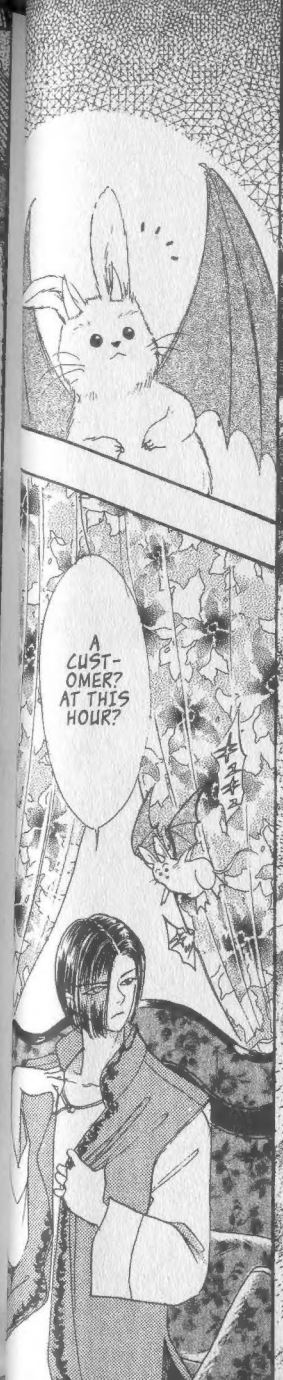
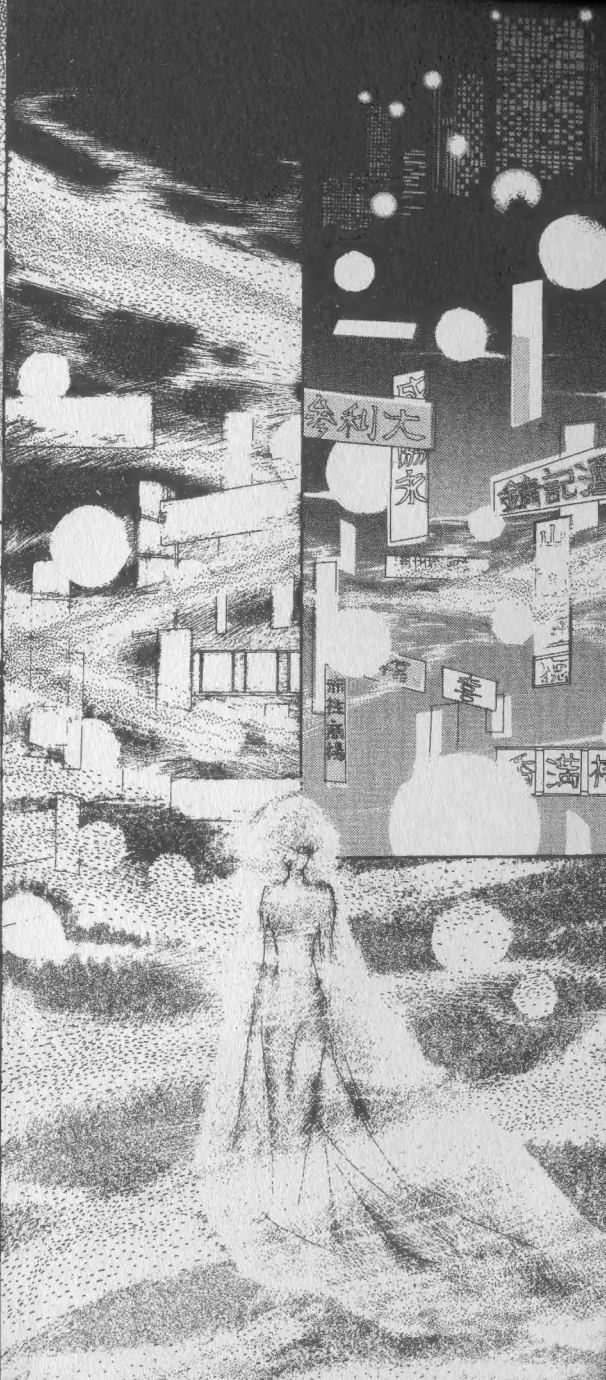

A CUST-OMER? AT THIS HOUR?
ドスキュ



IS THE COUNT PRESENT?
THAT'S UNNECESSARY. AND DON'T WORRY, I CAME IN SECRET.
Y-YOUR MAJESTY !!
TO WHAT DO I OWE THIS HONOR?

ANY-THING YOU WISH...
WELL, I WAS HOPING TO SPEAK WITH THE COUNT, BUT PER-HAPS...

UNFORTU-NATELY, NO. HE IS ON A PUR-CHASING TRIP.
PERHAPS I MAY BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE?

I TRUST YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH MY CURRENT... DILEMMA.
YES...

HOW EXCITED EVERYONE WAS...
I WAS SO YOUNG.
I CAN STILL REMEMBER OUR WEDDING...
YOU'RE MY BRIDE? YOU'RE NOT VERY PRETTY...
TOO YOUNG, I THINK...
IT WOULDN'T BE THE LAST.
OUR FIRST CONVERSATION TURNED INTO OUR FIRST FIGHT.
WELL, YOU'RE PRETTY SHORT FOR A KING.

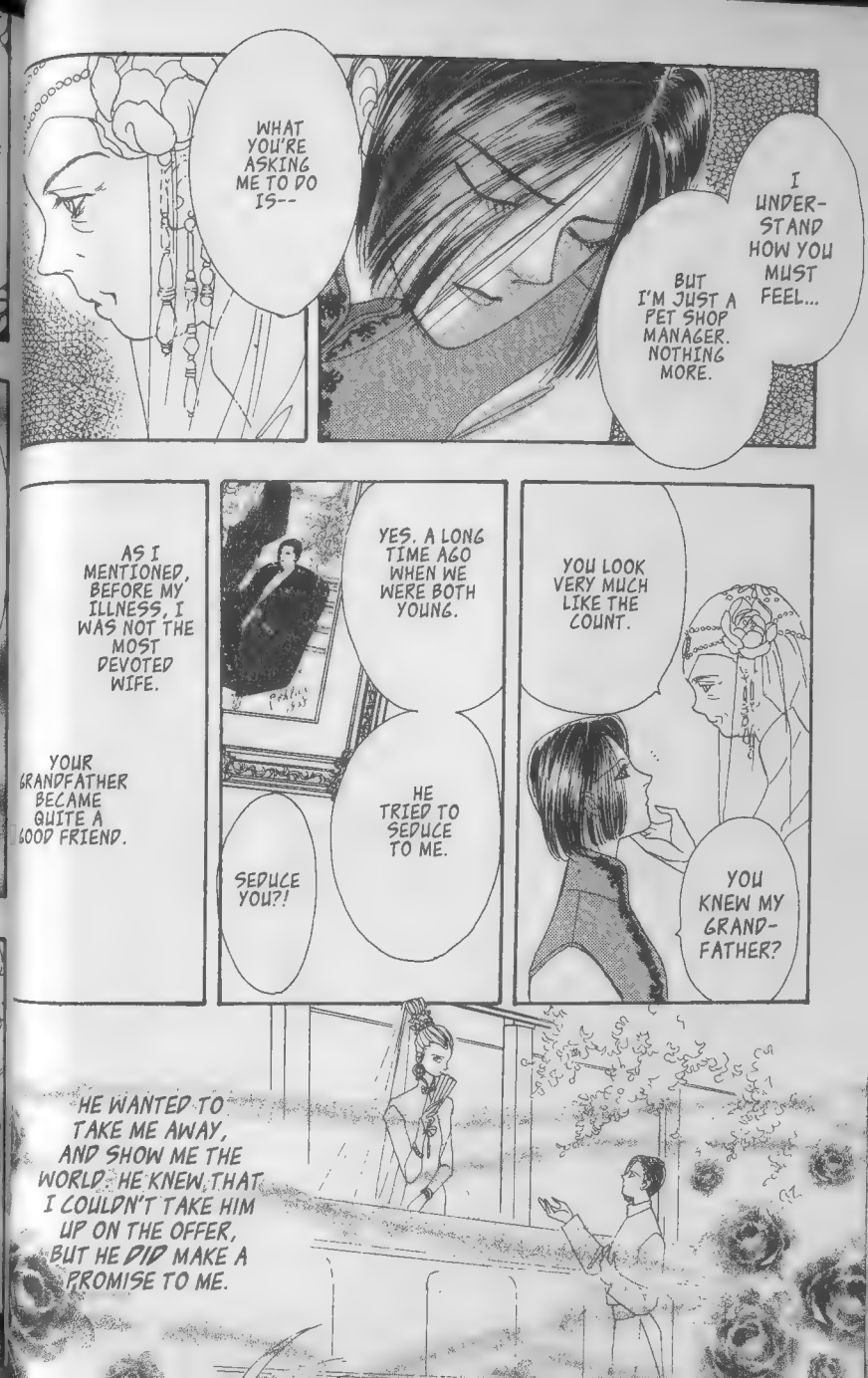
THEN YOU KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT TO ASK. AND YOU KNOW WHY IT MUST BE DONE.

IN THAT INSTANT...
...ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS AND PETTY SQUABBLES SEEMED TO FADE.
LIKE A SNOWDRIFT ON THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING...
THE COUNCIL ADVISED MY HUSBAND TO FIND A CONCUBINE...
...BUT HE REFUSED.
BUT TRUE HAPPINESS WAS TO ELUDE US. BECAUSE OF MY ILLNESS, I HAD BECOME INFERTILE.

WE SPENT OUR DAYS AS ACTORS, PLAYING THE ROLES OF KING AND QUEEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE...
...WHILE WE SPENT OUR NIGHTS IN THE ARMS OF OTHERS.
WHEN AT LAST I CAME TO...
FOR A WEEK, I WAS FLUTTERING BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH.
THEN ONE DAY...
...I FELL ILL.
...I FOUND MY HUSBAND WATCHING OVER ME. HE WORE AN EXPRESSION OF WORRY AND CONCERN I HADN'T THOUGHT POSSIBLE.

YOUR MAJESTY ?
TH-THIS MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING THE DOCTORS AND ADVISORS DE--
COUGH COUGH
HE BELIEVED THAT. WE BOTH BELIEVED IT. HE NEVER WOULD HAVE...
I... REALIZE OUR MARRIAGE WASN'T PERFECT.
BUT BEFORE HIS DEATH MY HUSBAND AND I FINALLY STOPPED ACTING THE PART OF MAN AND WIFE AND STARTED LIVING IT.
YOUR MAJESTY ...
I... DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...
THAT WOMAN AND HER BASTARD CHILD MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THAT AWAY. IT'S FOR THE GOOD OF THE KINGDOM.
...BUT WE BELIEVED THAT THERE WERE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS.
YES, THE PEOPLE DESIRED A PRINCE, AN HEIR TO THE THRONE...
INCLUDING PROVIDING THE KINGDOM WITH AN HEIR.
MY HUSBAND AND I HAD AT LAST FOUND LOVE.
AND MORE IMPORTANT, WE REALIZED THAT OUR LOVE WAS MEANT TO BE OUR LEGACY.
AFTER YEARS OF INFIDELITY, RESTORING THE SANCTITY OF OUR MARRIAGE WAS ALL THAT MATTERED TO US.
EVERYTHING ELSE WAS SECONDARY...

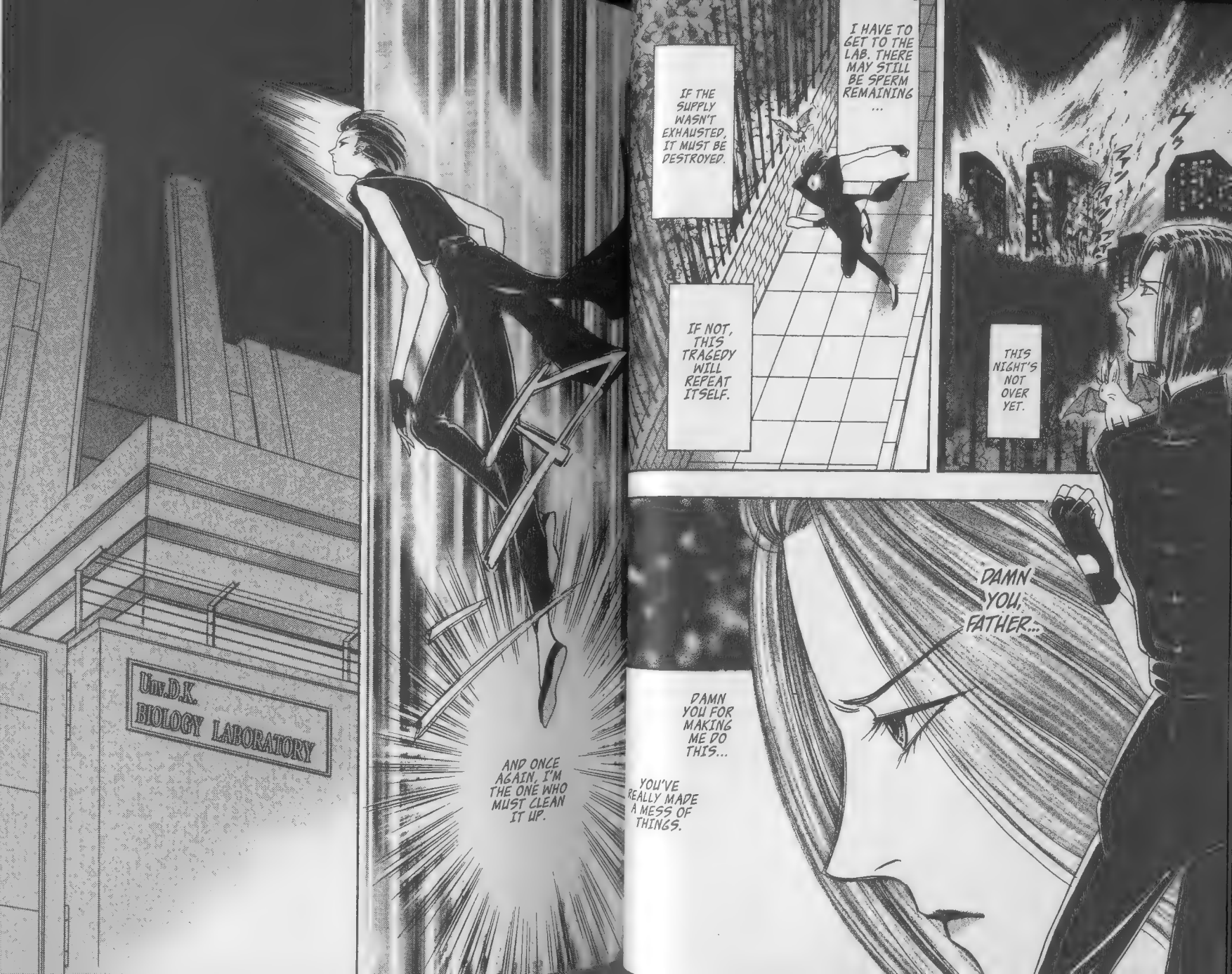
YOUR MAJESTY
I COULD TURN TO HIM FOR HELP. WITH ANY-THING.
HE ASSURED ME THAT IF I WERE EVER IN NEED...
I HAVE NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO. I FEEL TERRI-BLE FOR ASKING SUCH A THING.
YOUR GRAND-FATHER WAS SUCH A KIND MAN.
MY FATHER ?
BUT YOUR FATHER--
WHAT ?!
YOUR FATHER WAS THE DOCTOR WHO SUGGESTED MY HUSBAND FIND A CONCUBINE. HE'S THE ONE WHO CONVINCED HIM TO LEAVE BEHIND A SPERM SAMPLE. YOUR FATHER IS THE REASON THAT BASTARD CHILD EXISTS.


WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ME TO DO IS--
I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU MUST FEEL...
BUT I'M JUST A PET SHOP MANAGER. NOTHING MORE.
AS I MENTIONED, BEFORE MY ILLNESS, I WAS NOT THE MOST DEVOTED WIFE.
YOUR GRANDFATHER BECAME QUITE A GOOD FRIEND.
YES. A LONG TIME AGO WHEN WE WERE BOTH YOUNG.
HE TRIED TO SEDUCE TO ME.
SEDUCE YOU?!
YOU LOOK VERY MUCH LIKE THE COUNT.
YOU KNEW MY GRAND-FATHER?
HE WANTED TO TAKE ME AWAY, AND SHOW ME THE WORLD. HE KNEW THAT I COULDN'T TAKE HIM UP ON THE OFFER, BUT HE *DID* MAKE A PROMISE TO ME.

OKAY GUYS, WE'VE GOT ANOTHER ASSASSI-NATION ATTEMPT.
WE NEED TO FIND MS. YUNFA, SHE PROBABLY NEEDS HELP.
WHAT'S GOING ON? I JUST STEPPED OUT TO TAKE A PISS AND--
YOU IDIOT! YOU LEFT YOUR POST?!! YOU KNOW THE DANGER THIS WOMAN'S IN!!
OH, NO...
MS. YUNFA!!
HOLY SHIT!
HOTEL
CHRIST, IT'S MADAM YUNFA'S HOTEL...
A BIT BLOODY LATE FOR THAT, Y'THINK ?!!
ORCOT, SHOULD I CALL THE BOMB SQUAD ?!

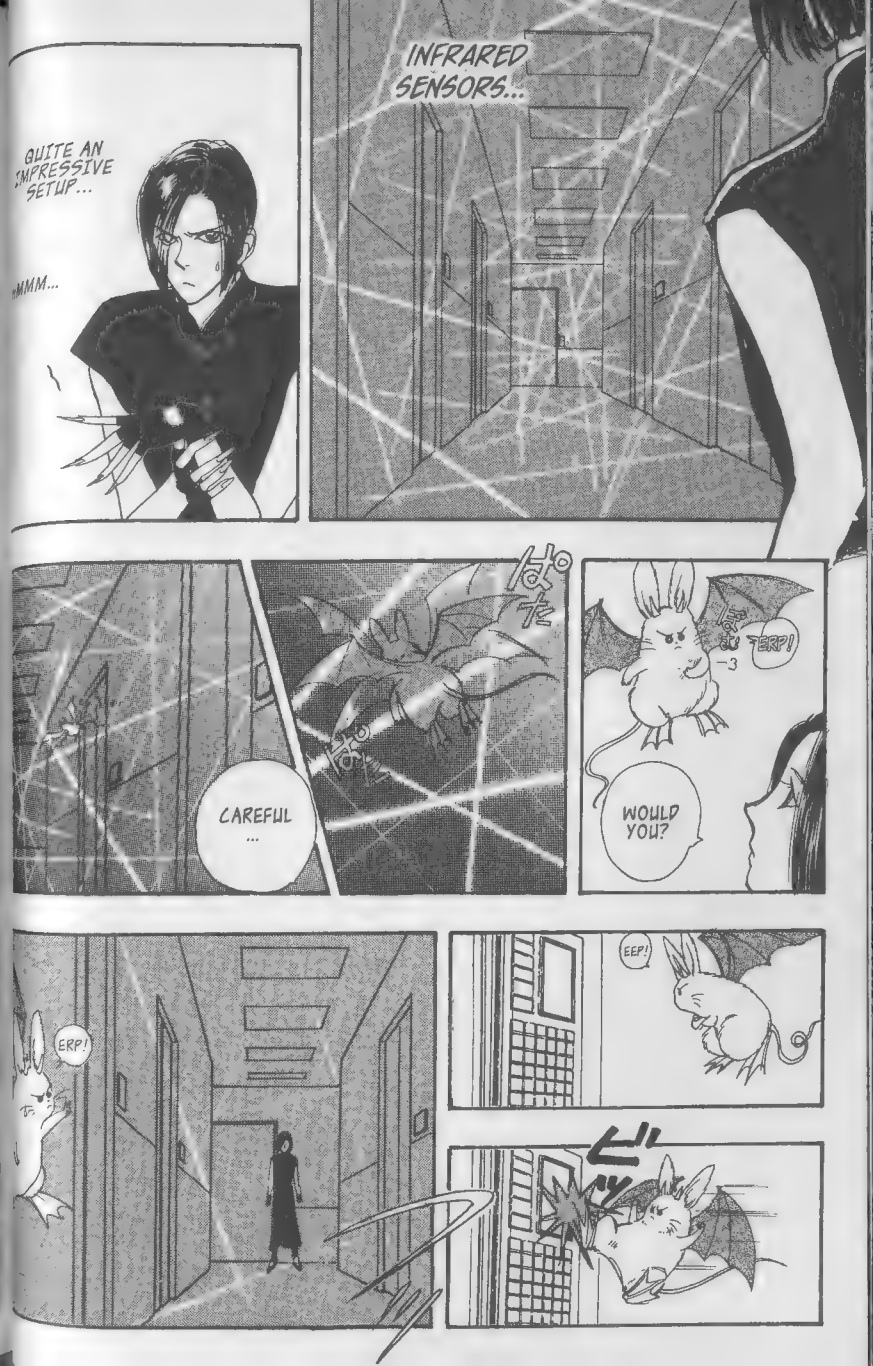
DID A WOMAN DO THIS?
PERFUME?
KIND OF LIKE... PERFUME.... NICE PERFUME...
I REMEMBER... THERE WAS...A SWEET SMELL...
YOU THERE! WHO DID THIS?
UH ...
HEY, ANSWER ME! WAS THIS DONE BY A WOMAN?
NO... A MAN. I THINK.
A MAN ?!
WAS IT PERFUME...
...OR INCENSE?
YOU'RE TELLING ME A MAN WAS WEARING PERFUME ?!
DAMN... BLACK ROBE, BLACK HAIR, INCENSE...
IT'S THE SAME AS CHRISTMAS EVE...
IT W-WAS A YOUNG... ASIAN GUY. HE HAD... BLACK HAIR.
H-HE WORE... HE WORE ONE OF THOSE... ASIAN ROBES. B-BLACK TOO.
THAT'S GOTTA BE OUR BOY.
DAMN ...
BA... BY...
MY... BABY...
OH, CRAP! HEY, STAY WITH ME...

JESUS CHRIST, WHERE'S THE FUCKING AMBULANCE?!!
MOMMY!!
M-MOM...
FOOL-ISH...
D... I KNEW YOU WERE DIRTY, BUT I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D STOOP THIS LOW.
OFFICER, HAVE YOU SEEN MY SON?! HE WAS IN THE HOTEL!
MURDERER...
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR. WAY TOO FUCK-ING FAR...


Univ.D.K.
BIOLOGY LABORATORY
AND ONCE AGAIN, I'M THE ONE WHO MUST CLEAN IT UP.
YOU'VE REALLY MADE A MESS OF THINGS.
DAMN YOU FOR MAKING ME DO THIS...
DAMN YOU, FATHER...
IF THE SUPPLY WASN'T EXHAUSTED, IT MUST BE DESTROYED.
I HAVE TO GET TO THE LAB. THERE MAY STILL BE SPERM REMAINING ...
IF NOT, THIS TRAGEDY WILL REPEAT ITSELF.
THIS NIGHT'S NOT OVER YET.

EEP!
EEP EEP!
DAMMIT... WHICH ROOM?
WHERE IS IT? IT HAS TO BE IN ONE OF THESE FREEZERS...
EVEN IF IT IS IN THIS ROOM, THE DOORS ARE ELECTRONICALLY SEALED.
IT'S POINTLESS.
.....

WHATEVER THEY KEEP HERE MUST BE VERY IMPORTANT, IF THEY'RE WILLING TO TAKE ALL THESE STEPS TO PROTECT IT.
THIS DOOR REQUIRES FINGERPRINT AND VOICE IDENTIFICATION, ALONG WITH A KEYCARD.
DAMN...
WHO'S THERE?!
...KEY-CARD?
NOW WHERE CAN I GET A...


QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE SETUP...
MMM...
INFRARED SENSORS...
CAREFUL...
ERP!
WOULD YOU?
ERP!
EEP!

チャッ
IS SOMEONE IN HERE?!
NOT GOOD...
HEY, WHO'S THERE?!
I'VE GONE THIS FAR. I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET CAUGHT NOW.

I'M WORKING LATE TONIGHT...
OH... DOCTOR? I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.
MAY I ASK WHAT IT IS YOU'RE DOING, SIR?
AH... WELL...
I WANTED TO CHECK THE SAMPLES, BUT IT SEEMS I'VE DROPPED MY PASS SOMEWHERE...
AH, WELL... I CAN LET YOU IN.
THAT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.
NO PROBLEMO, DOC. YOU THINK YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON TO LOSE YOUR KEYCARD?
STUPID LITTLE THINGS... GIVE ME A GOOD SET OF KEYS ANY DAY.
CRAZY EVENING, AIN'T IT?
YOU HEARD ABOUT THE SEA SIDE HOTEL, RIGHT? SOME FREAK BLEW IT UP.
ACTUALLY, HE MAY STILL BE IN THE AREA. YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL, DOC.
OF COURSE.

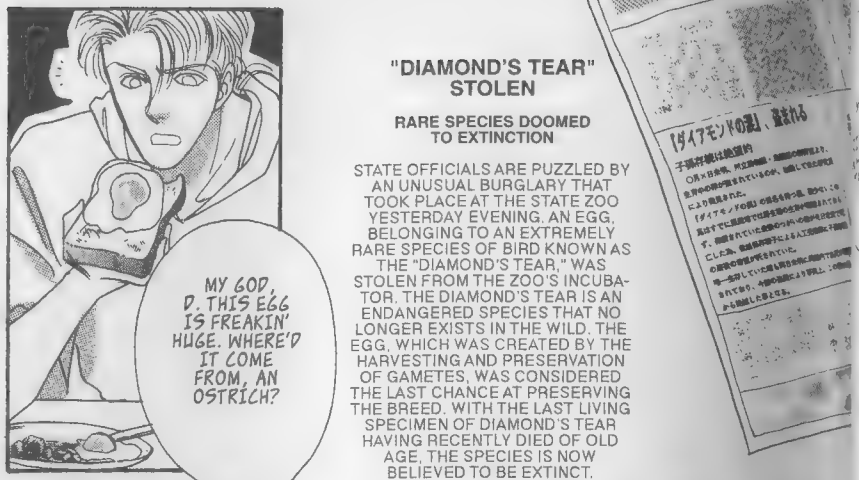
THANKS AGAIN.
WELL, THERE YOU GO.
FORGET...
FORGET THIS CONVERSATION. FORGET TONIGHT.

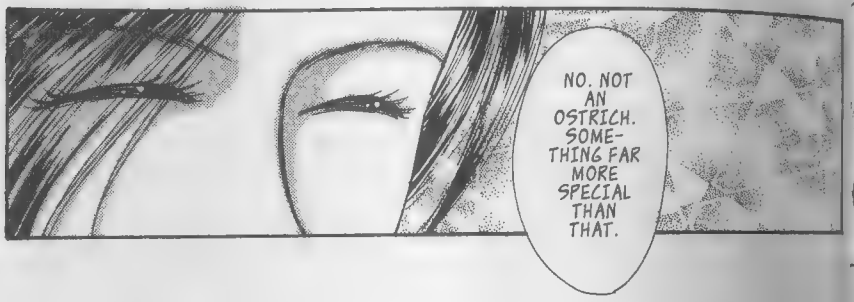
YOU ARE A CREDIT TO YOUR FAMILY. I SEE YOUR GRANDFATHER IN YOU.
THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.
I HOPE THAT NOW YOU CAN BE AT PEACE. YOU'RE RIGHT, THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN BLOODLINES.
BLESS YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING. OUR LOVE WILL LIVE FOREVER, UNTAINTED AND PURE.
THANK YOU.

REMEMBER ME. REMEMBER US.
MY HUSBAND COMES FOR ME.
AT LAST WE WILL BE REUNITED.
YOU WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.
MAY HAPPINESS LIGHT YOUR PATH... FOREVER.

I KNOW YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE, COUNT. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
THIRTY PEOPLE, INCLUDING MS. YUNFA, ARE NOW DEAD...
.....
EEP!
NOT UNTIL YOU'RE BEHIND BARS!!
I DON'T THINK MY PERSONAL LIFE IS ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS, DETECTIVE. LET GO OF ME!
RING RING
WHAT ARE YOU YAPPIN' ABOUT, LEON? WHAT SUSPECT? WE'VE ALREADY APPREHENDED THE CULPRIT.
GET THIS... THE GUY WAS A TRANNY. HAD THE FULL MAKEUP, DRESS, PERFUME AND EVERYTHING. HIS LOVER TURNED HIM IN.
THIS IS ORCOT. YES, I HAVE THE SUSPECT IN CUSTODY.
CAREFUL, OFFICER!
WHAT ?
A SUSPECT FOR WHAT?
.....
AT ANY RATE, WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, IT'S A WASTE OF TIME. REPORT BACK IMMEDIATELY!

COUNT
!!
HELLO, COUNT! YOU WEREN'T GOING ANYWHERE WERE YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
MAYBE HEADING OFF TO BED, HUH? AFTER AN EVENING LIKE YOURS, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED. WHERE WERE YOU LAST NIGHT, COUNT?


MY GOD, D. THIS EGG IS FREAKIN' HUGE. WHERE'D IT COME FROM, AN OSTRICH?
"DIAMOND'S TEAR" STOLEN
RARE SPECIES DOOMED TO EXTINCTION
STATE OFFICIALS ARE PUZZLED BY AN UNUSUAL BURGLARY THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE STATE ZOO YESTERDAY EVENING. AN EGG, BELONGING TO AN EXTREMELY RARE SPECIES OF BIRD KNOWN AS THE "DIAMOND'S TEAR," WAS STOLEN FROM THE ZOO'S INCUBATOR. THE DIAMOND'S TEAR IS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES THAT NO LONGER EXISTS IN THE WILD. THE EGG, WHICH WAS CREATED BY THE HARVESTING AND PRESERVATION OF GAMETES, WAS CONSIDERED THE LAST CHANCE AT PRESERVING THE BREED. WITH THE LAST LIVING SPECIMEN OF DIAMOND'S TEAR HAVING RECENTLY DIED OF OLD AGE, THE SPECIES IS NOW BELIEVED TO BE EXTINCT.


NO. NOT AN OSTRICH. SOMETHING FAR MORE SPECIAL THAN THAT.

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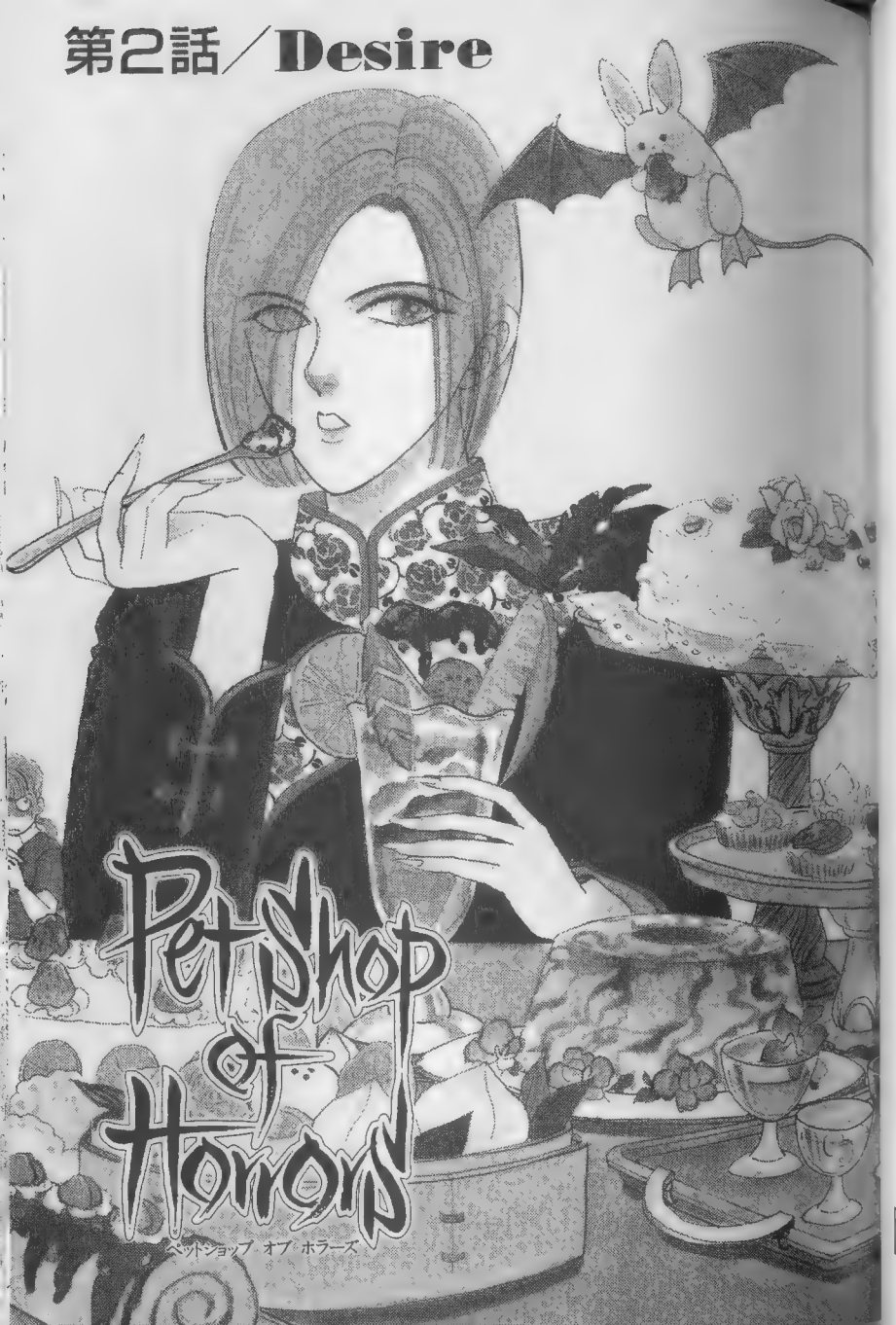
WELL, ARE YOU GONNA HAVE SOME?

SHOULD YOU EVEN BE HERE RIGHT NOW? WHAT ABOUT THE SHOP?
WELL, AFTER ALL YOUR COMPLAINING ...
HEY, THIS IS NEW. YOU FINALLY HAVE SOMETHING THAT WON'T GIVE ME CAVITIES.
HERE YOU GO... EGGS, SUNNY SIDE UP...

EH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M TIRED FROM ALL THE CRAZINESS LAST NIGHT.
LATELY MY GUT'S BEEN WAY OFF.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME...

I USED TO BE REALLY GOOD AT FINGERING PERPS.
BUT LATELY, I CAN'T HANDLE MUCH MORE THAN A PARKING VIOLATION WITHOUT SCREWING IT UP.

第2話／Desire



END OF EPISODE 1

THAT'S ENOUGH !!!
I'VE HEARD ALL I NEED TO HEAR !!!
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!
YOU LITTLE BRATS!
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WHAT ARE YOU DOING, OFFICER?
I NEVER REALIZED YOU WERE A FAMILY MAN.
COUNT D?

HUH? WAIT, OFFICER!!
JUST GIVE THEM A GOOD LECTURE OR SOMETHING!
COUNT, CAN YOU DEAL WITH THIS?
I'M ON MY WAY!
WHAT'S THAT? A 211? WHERE?
I'M A COP! I'M SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THE VICTIMS OF THIS CITY.
MALE OR FEMALE, YOUNG OR OLD, HAIRLESS OR FURRY.
ACTUALLY, I THINK WHAT YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW IS CHILD ABUSE.
DOG?
FAMILY?! THESE AREN'T MY KIDS! THEY'RE LITTLE PUNKS THAT THINK TORTURING A STRAY DOG IS CUTE!
NOW'S OUR CHANCE! RUN!!
HOLD ON, LITTLE GIRL.
IT'S 4 P.M.
HOW 'BOUT SOME TEA AND CAKE?
HEY, WAIT FOR ME, BOBBY!!
RING
RING
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHY, YOU LITTLE--
SHE'S NOT A STRAY!! SHE'S MY PET DOG, DAISY!
I OWN HER, SO YOU CAN'T SAY NUTHIN'!

I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS A PET SHOP IN CHINATOWN!
OOH! WHAT A PRETTY BIRD!
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU HATE ANIMALS...
WHY WOULD YOU HURT THIS POOR CREATURE?
CAN'T YOU SEE IT'S FRIGHTENED?
SHE'S TOO DUMB TO BE FRIGHTENED.
I FOUND DAISY IN A BOX NEAR OUR HOUSE.
I TOOK HER HOME AND MOM SAID I COULD KEEP HER.
SHE WAS SO CUTE AND LITTLE, BUT THEN SHE GOT ALL BIG...
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS. PUPPIES GROW UP.
ANYWAY...
I DON'T WANT HER ANYMORE.
BUT NO MATTER HOW FAR I LEAVE HER, SHE ALWAYS COMES BACK HOME.
MY, YOU ARE QUITE SMART AREN'T YOU?
SHE'S NO FUN ANYMORE. I ASKED MOM IF WE CAN GET A KITTY, BUT SHE SAID NO.
SHE SAID, "YOU HAVE DAISY. IF YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF HER, THEN THROW HER AWAY."

...AND YOU CAN PICK SOMETHING ELSE OUT.
I UNDER-STAND.
REALLY ?
THEN HOW ABOUT A TRADE. I'LL TAKE DAISY...
YEAH!
WELL, MARGARET...
SHALL WE STEP IN BACK?
OF COURSE. LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND.
DAISY, YOU STAY RIGHT HERE AND WAIT. OKAY, GIRL?

OH MY, THEN YOU MUST BE WELL CARED FOR.
NO WAY!!
ARE YOU AN ONLY CHILD?
TELL ME, MISS, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
NO, I HAVE THREE OLDER SIS-TERS.
MARGARET.
OH, WHAT A LOVELY NAME.
MY OLDEST SISTER, ROSA, IS ALWAYS ACT-ING UP BECAUSE SHE'S THE TOP STUDENT IN HER SCHOOL.
LILY, THE NEXT OLDEST, IS THE PRET-TIEST GIRL IN THE FAMILY, AND SHE KNOWS IT.
KATRINA, WHO'S A YEAR OLDER THAN ME, ALWAYS BEATS ME UP.
AND MOM ALWAYS BLAMES ME FOR OUR FIGHTS.

HERE WE ARE. LET'S LOOK IN THIS ROOM.
IT'S SOMETHING... SWEET.
ARE THERE ANY KITTIES?
OF COURSE.
OR MAYBE A PUPPY...
OR HOW ABOUT--
OUR SHOP CARRIES PETS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE...
WE HAVE ANYTHING YOU COULD POSSIBLY IMAGINE.
THIS STORE IS A LOT BIGGER THAN I THOUGHT...
LONG HALLWAYS...
...AND WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
IT'S SO DARK...
I CAN'T SEE...

CUTE...
AND OBEDIENT...
A SISTER WHO WILL DO WHAT YOU SAY.
A SISTER TO BE YOUR SLAVE.
YOU REALLY WANTED A "YOUNGER SISTER" RIGHT?
WELL, I'M GIVING YOU WHAT YOU WANTED.

I...I WANTED A KITTEN OR MAYBE A PUPPY...
NOT A KID.
SPECIALLY... NOT A...
...A KID THAT'S FRIGHTENED AND SCARED...
AND SO WEAK AND SICK...
HUH?!
NOW, PLEASE CHOOSE ONE...
MARGARET...

MAGGIE!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
HURRY UP AND EAT YOUR DINNER BEFORE--
WH-WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
I'M SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU SO LATE.
MADAM.
AND WHO ARE YOU?
MADAM?
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAGGIE?
HOW CAN WE--
MOM? CAN SHE STAY WITH US FROM NOW ON?
I'M THE MANAGER OF A SMALL PET SHOP IN CHINATOWN.
YOUR DAUGHTER AND I MADE AN AGREEMENT TODAY. I WOULD TAKE DAISY FROM HER, AND IN EXCHANGE, I GAVE MARGARET THIS CHILD FOR A PET.
WHAT ?!
A CHILD?! ARE YOU MAD?!
I CAN'T JUST TAKE IN A CHILD! THAT'S NOT EVEN LEGAL, IS IT?!!
SHE'S A POOR ORPHAN FROM EAST ASIA WHO LOST HER PARENTS IN A WAR...
HER BLOOD-RELATIVES WOULD HAVE TAKEN HER IN, BUT THEY HAD A LITTLE... ACCIDENT.
IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S STILL IN A STATE OF SHOCK FROM THE EXPERIENCE.
SHE WAS PLACED IN MY CARE...
WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT I WOULD FIND HER A LOVING HOME.
A HOME MADE UP OF KIND PEOPLE...
MUCH LIKE YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTERS.

WELL THEN, MY PART HERE IS DONE.
I KNOW IT'S ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME...
BUT, PLEASE DO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.

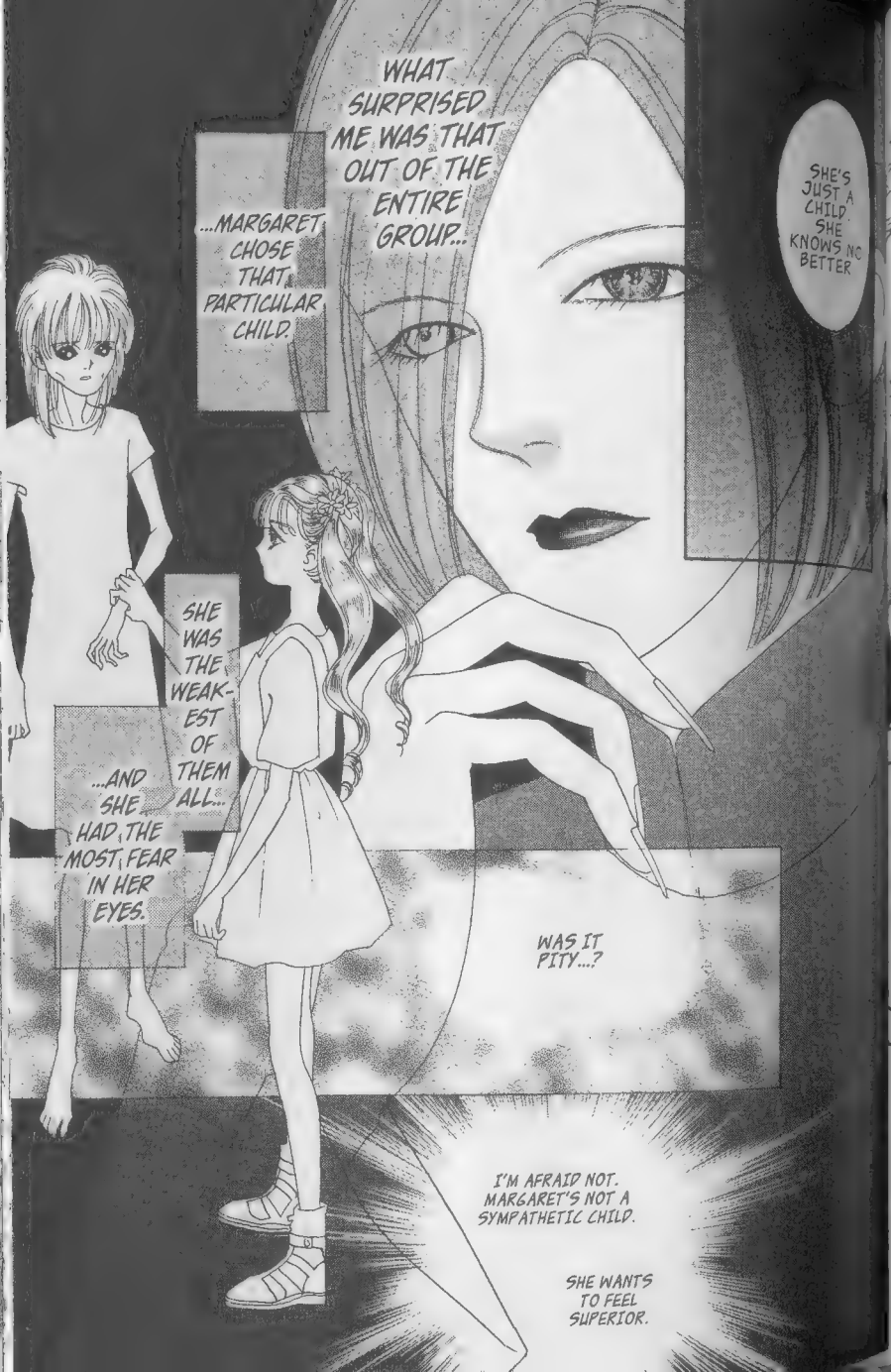
I... I SEE YOUR DILEMMA, SIR.
BUT I ALREADY HAVE FOUR DAUGHTERS...
OUR EXPENSES ARE THROUGH THE ROOF. I MEAN, I WANT TO HELP, BUT THE COSTS...
WITH A PROPER UPBRINGING...
AND A LITTLE LOVE...
THIS CHILD MAY YET HAVE A CHANCE AT LIFE.
OH, YES, I FORGOT.
HOW SILLY OF ME...
HER FINANCIAL WELL-BEING WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF. SHE RECEIVES A WEEKLY STIPEND OF $15,000 FROM AN ANONYMOUS COMPANY.
IF YOU'D BE SO KIND TO TAKE HER IN...EVEN FOR A MONTH.
OVER $70,000 EXTRA A YEAR!
I COULD THROW IN AN EXTRA $1 000 FOR CLOTHING.
THAT'S $6,000 A MONTH.
I SUPPOSE, IF YOU WERE TO INSIST...
INSIST. PLEASE SIGN HERE...

WE NEED TO GIVE YOU A NAME...
IT'S OKAY MOM'
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.
HMMM...
WHAT SHOULD WE CALL YOU?
DAISY...
I THINK DAISY WOULD BE GOOD.
IT SUITS YOU, AND IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE SOMEHOW.
THAT'S THE NAME OF THE DOG I TRADED FOR YOU...!!

WOW!
WE'RE GONNA BE RICH!
DID YOU SEE THE LIMO HE ARRIVED IN?
OR HOW NICE HE WAS DRESSED?
THAT DUDE IS RICH!
HERE YOU GO.
THEY'RE JUST LEFTOVERS, BUT THEY SHOULD STILL BE GOOD. YOU'RE OUR NEW CASH COW, SO EAT UP!
NO, NO. WE EAT LIKE THIS HERE.
USE YOUR SPOON.
LIKE THIS...
GOOD!
AND YOU DON'T SLURP SOUP.
DID WE ADOPT A GIRL OR A PIG?
MY WORD! WHO TAUGHT YOU TO EAT LIKE THAT?!

HEY, WHO'S THAT?
YEAH, I GUESS.
WERE YOU OKAY?
SORRY FOR DITCHING YOU LIKE THAT YESTERDAY.
BOBBY.
HI, MAGGIE.
H... HELLO...
SHE HAS NO FAMILY OF HER OWN...
SO MY FAMILY IS ADOPTING HER.
HEH HEH...
SHE'S MY KID SIS-TER.
WHAT?!
COME ON NOW.
SAY HI TO BOBBY, DAISY.

OH MY! THEY'RE A LITTLE BIG...
THESE CLOTHE CLOTHES USED TO BELON BELONG TO MAGGIE. I'GIE. I'M AFRAID, THER', THERE ISN'T ANYTHINNYTHING ELSE FOR YOU 'R YOU TO WEAR. AR.
C COME ON, LET'S SC ON, DAISY, LET'S GO TO SCHOOL.
HOPEFULLY, SHE'LL STOP BEING SUCH A BRAT!
SHE'S ACTING LIKE AN OLDER SISTER TO DAISY.
MARGARET NEVER USED TO GET TO SCHOOL ON TIME. THIS IS QUITE A NICE CHANGE.


WHAT SURPRISED ME WAS THAT OUT OF THE ENTIRE GROUP...
...MARGARET CHOSE THAT PARTICULAR CHILD.
SHE'S JUST A CHILD. SHE KNOWS NO BETTER
SHE WAS THE WEAKEST OF THEM ALL...
...AND SHE HAD THE MOST FEAR IN HER EYES.
WAS IT PITY...?
I'M AFRAID NOT. MARGARET'S NOT A SYMPATHETIC CHILD.
SHE WANTS TO FEEL SUPERIOR.

IN ASIA, YOU ARE ABLE TO RIDE THE TURTLE YOU SAVED...AND PARTY ALL NIGHT WITH MANY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.
THANKS. SO, WHAT HAPPENED WITH THOSE KIDS YESTERDAY?
MY GOD, IT'S HOT OUTSIDE!
YOU GOT ANYTHING COOL TO DRINK?
YOU DIDN'T GIVE HER SOMETHING "ODD" DID YOU?
YOU'RE LOSING IT, D. I THINK THE HEAT'S GETTING TO YOU. I WAS ASKING ABOUT THE KID. DID SHE TAKE HER DOG HOME?
NO.
ACTUALLY, SHE TRADED IT FOR ANOTHER PET.
I WAS KIDDING.
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? CROC? SHARK? A MAN-EATING GERBIL?!
COUNT!!

SEE, THIS IS HOW YOU DRIBBLE.
HERE, NOW YOU TRY.
.....
IT'S OKAY, DAISY. JUST WATCH ME.
DAISY, HOW 'BOUT A LITTLE 3 ON 3? WHADDYA SAY?
PASS! OVER HERE!
HEY, MAGGIE!
WHAT ABOUT HER? SHE'S NOT GONNA PLAY?
WHY DON'T YOU LET HER PLAY?
SHE'S BEEN WATCHING THE WHOLE TIME.
WHOOPS!
MAYBE YOU'RE A BETTER SHOOTER. TRY TO PUT THE BALL IN THE RING.
HEE HEE! THAT'S AWFUL!
AHH...
OKAY.
GO GET THE BALL, DAISY!!
DAISY!! HERE NOW!
BOBBY...
SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE WANTS TO PLAY WITH ME.
NO, IT'S OKAY. DAISY'S FINE JUST CARRYING STUFF.
HEY, DAISY! COME OVER HERE

AWW, SHE JUST GOT LUCKY.
ARE YOU NUTS?! OUR GIRLS GOT SKILLS!
DAISY?!
WOW! DID YOU SEE THAT?
THAT SHOT WAS OFF THE HOOK!
DAISY, DO THAT AGAIN!
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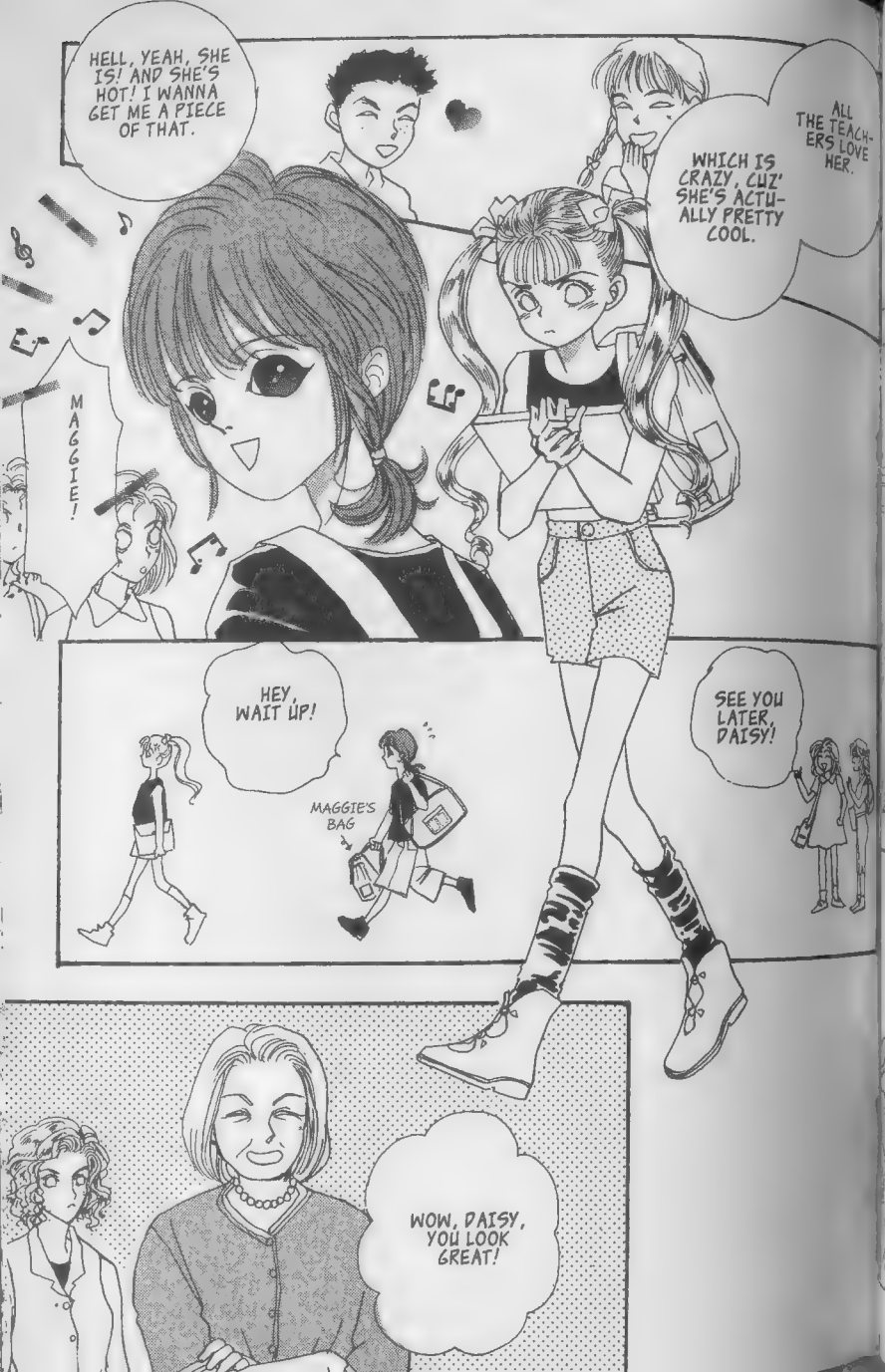

HELL, YEAH, SHE IS! AND SHE'S HOT! I WANNA GET ME A PIECE OF THAT.
ALL THE TEACHERS LOVE HER.
WHICH IS CRAZY, CUZ' SHE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY COOL.
MAGGIE!
HEY, WAIT UP!
MAGGIE'S BAG
SEE YOU LATER, DAISY!
WOW, DAISY, YOU LOOK GREAT!

THAT GIRL'S GOT MOVES!
YEAH, AND NOT JUST AT BASKETBALL.
SUPPOSEDLY KICKS IT AT TRACK AND SWIMMING TOO. THE COACHES ARE GOIN' CRAZY.
NOT JUST THE COACHES, DUDE. THAT GIRL'S IN MY MUSIC CLASS.
SHE CAN SING!
GENIUS!
AND SHE'S AN ARTIST.

YOU SEEN THE NEW STUDENT?
OH, MAN, YOU TALKIN' ABOUT DAISY?
I SAW HER AT LUNCH ON THE COURT.

NOW DAISY, ON THE OTHER HAND, ALWAYS LISTENS.
NOT TO MENTION SHE'S A LOT OF HELP AROUND THE HOUSE.
AND SHE'S A FAST LEARNER. AREN'T YOU, SWEETIE?
THAT GIRL CAN BE SO RUDE.
IT'S THE WAY SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN.
I ♥ MAGGIE?!
AND SHE'S SO... WELL, ELEGANT.
MAYBE IT'S IN HER BLOOD.
YEAH, WE DON'T KNOW WHO HER PARENTS WERE. FOR ALL WE KNOW, SHE COULD BE A PRINCESS.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED, CONSIDERING HOW WELL BEHAVED SHE IS.
I'M SO GLAD WE DECIDED TO TAKE HER IN.
WELL, IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT THE CHINESE MAN CAME TO GIVE US THE MONEY FOR THIS WEEK...
COME NOW, MAGGIE, SHE CAN'T KEEP WEARING YOUR OLD ONES.
YOU BOUGHT HER NEW CLOTHES?!
I JUST MADE SOME FUDGE...
...AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD LOOK BAD IF SHE HAD ON YOUR OLD CLOTHES.
WHY NOT?! I ALWAYS GET ALL MY SISTERS' HAND-ME-DOWNS! I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANYTHING NEW, EVER!
YOU'RE LOOKING SO MUCH BETTER, DAISY. I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW WELL YOU'VE CLEANED UP.
IF ONLY YOUR PARENTS COULD SEE YOU NOW.
OH, THEY'D BE SO PROUD OF YOU!
.....
DON'T WORRY, I BOUGHT A NEW DRESS FOR YOU TOO. THE SAME ONE, IN FACT. YOU AND DAISY WILL BE LIKE TWINS!

SHE'S A LITTLE BITCH, IS WHAT SHE IS! I HATE HER.
DAISY IS SO GREAT! DAISY IS SO WONDERFUL!
DAISY IS SUCH A LITTLE SAINT.
THIS IS PISSING ME OFF!!
AND THAT CRAP SHE PULLED TODAY...
SORRY, MAGGIE, BUT I HAVE OTHER PLANS...
GASP!
BOBBY?!

WHAT?!
HOW DARE YOU RAISE A HAND TO OUR CHILD!!
WRETCHED GIRL! YOU'RE SUCH A SPOILED LITTLE BRAT!! NO DINNER TONIGHT, AND NO TV FOR A WEEK!
MOM?
MOM!!
MAGGIE ?!
WHAT'S WRONG?
GO BACK TO THE PET SHOP!!
GET OUT!
MAGGIE ??
STOP!
STOP IT!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE EVER BROUGHT YOU HERE!
GET OUT!!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON IN HERE?!

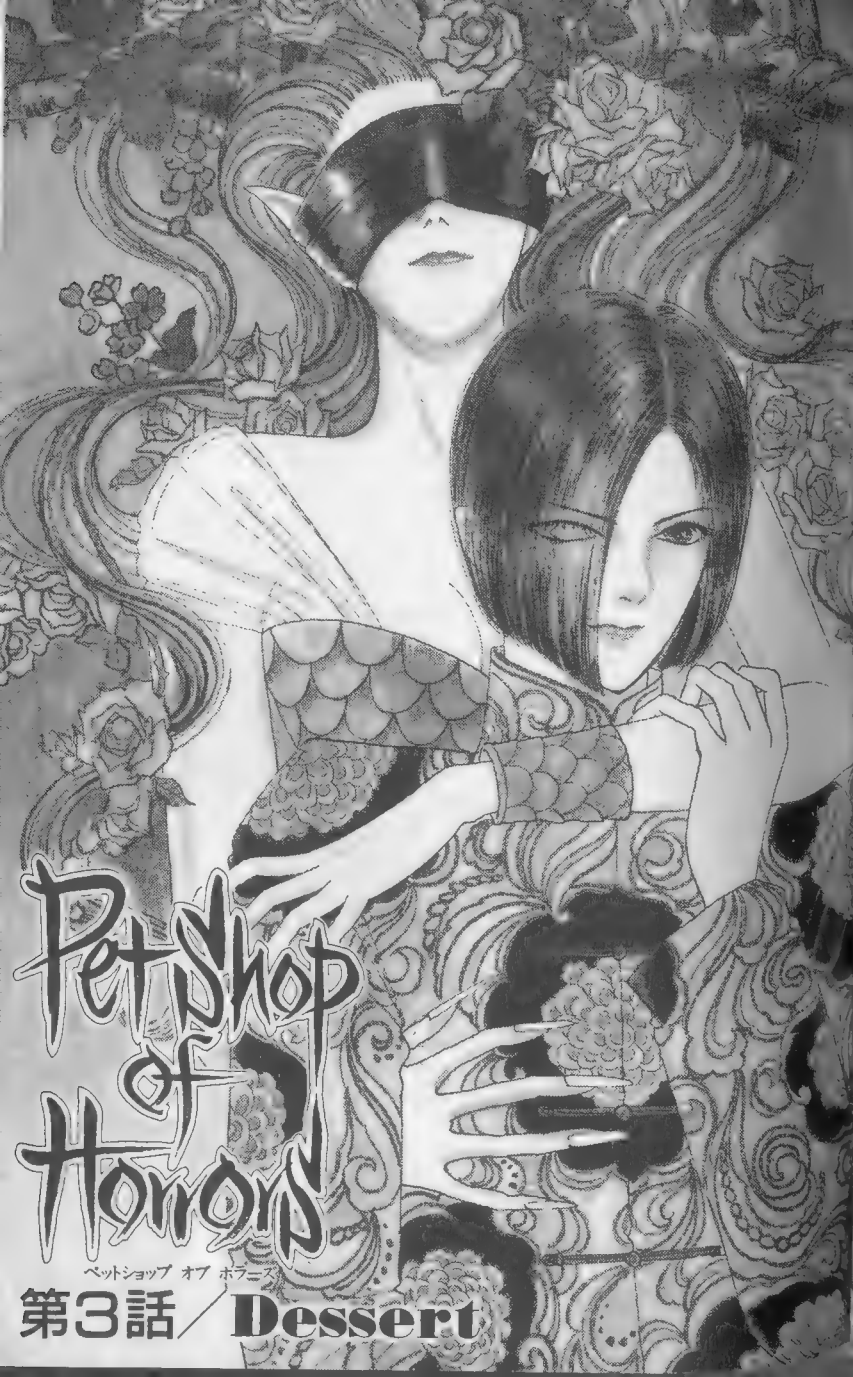
I WON'T LET ANY-ONE HURT YOU.
DEAR SISTER...
MY LITTLE MAGGIE...

MAGGIE, I'M SORRY.
DAISY...?
DON'T WORRY, I'LL GO AND APOLOGIZE TO MOM LATER.
IT MUST HAVE HURT.
MAGGIE ?
ARE YOU OKAY?
.....
FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE THE ONE TO PROTECT YOU.
I PROMISE.
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.

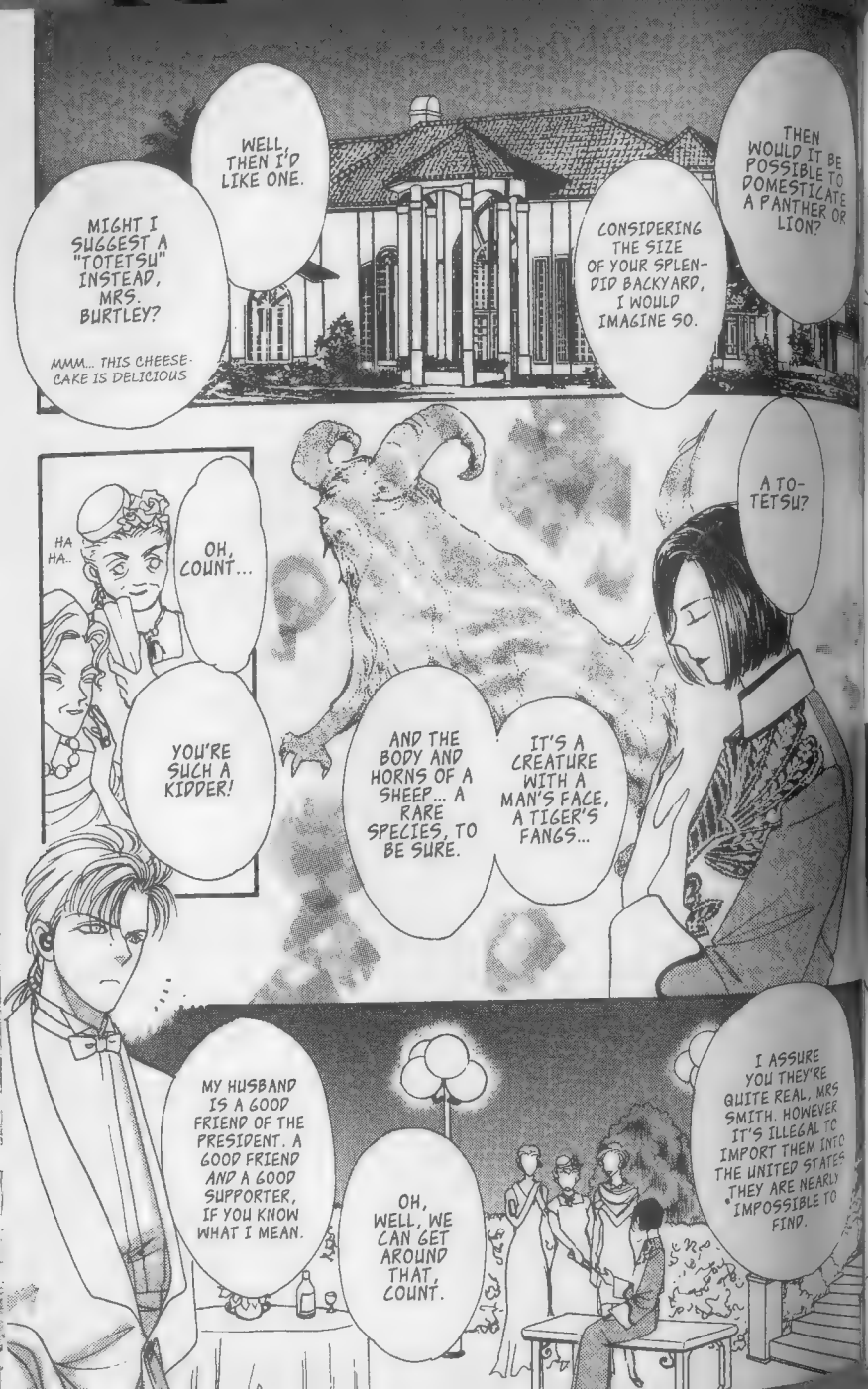
COME NOW, LITTLE MAGGIE.
MOM !!
DAD !!
WHY ARE-- I'M YOUR DAUGHTER! YOUR REAL DAUGHTER!
YOUR PARENTS ARE ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL. YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM FOR WANTING TO REPLACE THEIR IMPERFECT CHILD WITH SOMETHING BETTER.
SOMETHING CUTER, AND MUCH LESS OBNOXIOUS.
COUNT?!
YOU MEAN...
AFTER ALL... YOU DID.
THEY'RE REALLY GETTING RID OF ME?!
WHERE AM I GOING?!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!
COME ON, MAGGIE.
WHAT ?!
COUNT?!
WHY...?
WHY ARE YOU TAKING ME?!
DAD?!
MOM?! SIS?!
DAISY?!
WELL, MY FRIENDS, ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END.
I'VE COME TO TAKE BACK THE CHILD. THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF HER.

PERHAPS ONE DAY, A YOUNG GIRL WILL CHOOSE YOU FOR HER NEW PET.
TO MY PET SHOP, OF COURSE.
OF COURSE, WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ATTITUDE OF YOURS.
YOU'LL JOIN THE OTHER ABANDONED CHILDREN IN THE DARKENED ROOM.
WHAT IF NO ONE PICKS ME?
WHAT IF... WHAT IF NO ONE COMES?
HELP!!
SOMEONE HELP ME!!
OH...
HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW SPECIMENS.
WELL, I HAVE A FRIEND AT THE LOCAL LAB...
NO...
WAIT!
PLEASE...
PLEASE GIVE BACK MAGGIE.
WHY? AFTER ALL SHE'S DONE TO YOU...
YOU'RE RIGHT, SHE HAS...
SHE'S HURT YOU, DAISY. WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SHE'LL STOP?
BUT, STILL...

...AND THAT ONE DAY, I'D HELP TAKE CARE OF YOU.
DAISY ?
?!
WHAT ?
GASP
WHATS GOING ON? WHAT HAPPENED?
DAISY !!
I DECIDED THEN...
...THAT I'D HURRY...
...AND GROW UP...
AND ONCE AGAIN STARTED CARING FOR ME.
AND SHE TOOK CARE OF ME.
MAGGIE FOUND ME...
AND THAT DAY...
IN THE DARK-ENED ROOM...
SHE PICKED ME AGAIN...


Pet Shop of Horrors
ペットショップ オブ ホラーズ
第3話／Dessert

WELL, GUYS, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, I DOUBT ANYTHING WILL COME BETWEEN DAISY AND MAGGIE NOW.
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND IT... THIS HUMAN LOYALTY YOUR KIND IS KNOWN FOR.
I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND IT.
OF EPISODE 2


MIGHT I SUGGEST A "TOTETSU" INSTEAD, MRS. BURTLEY?
MMM... THIS CHEESECAKE IS DELICIOUS
WELL, THEN I'D LIKE ONE.
CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF YOUR SPLENDID BACKYARD, I WOULD IMAGINE SO.
THEN WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO DOMESTICATE A PANTHER OR LION?
A TOTETSU?
IT'S A CREATURE WITH A MAN'S FACE, A TIGER'S FANGS...
AND THE BODY AND HORNS OF A SHEEP... A RARE SPECIES, TO BE SURE.
HA HA.
OH, COUNT...
YOU'RE SUCH A KIDDER!
I ASSURE YOU THEY'RE QUITE REAL, MRS SMITH. HOWEVER IT'S ILLEGAL TO IMPORT THEM INTO THE UNITED STATES. THEY ARE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND.
OH, WELL, WE CAN GET AROUND THAT, COUNT.
MY HUSBAND IS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE PRESIDENT. A GOOD FRIEND AND A GOOD SUPPORTER, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

WELL, ACTUALLY...
THEY HUNT ONLY ONCE PER DAY. THERE IS NO UNNECESSARY KILLING.
DESPITE THEIR OUTWARD APPEARANCE, THEY'RE A FAIRLY REFINED SPECIES.

THOSE WOMEN ARE ALL REGULAR PATRONS OF MY SHOP.
RIGHT ...
PERSONALLY, I THINK YOU JUST HAVE A THING FOR OLD WOMEN.
THEIR CURIOSITY AND VANITY...
IS WHAT ALLOWS ME TO EAT WELL.
WHY, OFFICER... IS THAT JEALOUSY IN YOUR VOICE?
WHOA, MAMA!
COUN'
THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVERY-WHERE!
I'M HERE ON DUTY!
SHHHH !
I'M JUST AS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU, OFFICER. LOOK AT YOU, DRESSED UP AND ALL FANCY.
D?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WE'VE HAD OFFICERS WORKING UNDER-COVER AT ALL THE HOITY TOITY SOCIAL EVENTS IN THE AREA, HOP-ING WE CAN CATCH SOME SORT OF BREAK.
WE'RE NOT SURE IF THEY'RE ACCI-DENTS, KID-NAPPINGS OR HOMICIDES.
THERE'S BEEN A RASH OF HIGH PROFILE DISAP-PEARANCES OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS.
I MUST SAY, YOU LOOK RIDICU-LOUS...
HA HA!
YEAH, YEAH. LAUGH IT UP.
YOU STILL AVEN'T AINED AT OU'RE OING ERE.
WELL, THAT'S NICE, BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT HERE IN AMERICA WE HAVE A BIG PROBLEM ON OUR HANDS.
IN ASIA WE CALL THOSE "KAMI-KAKUSHI."
MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEAR-ANCES...

HEY, EVERYONE !!
ALRIGHT, COUNTS!
HELLO, EVERYONE.
I BROUGHT THE COUNT!
ANESSA !
HEY, D! DID YOU BRING IT?
D?!
YES, OF COURSE.

WELL THEN, EXCUSE ME, OFFI--
I'M SORRY. I MEAN, MR. ORCOT.

IT WOULD BE MY HONOR ...
MISS ANESSA.
NOW, COUNT, I THINK YOU'VE GIVEN ENOUGH ATTENTION TO MY MOTHER AND HER FRIENDS. I WANT TO DANCE.

WHAT THE HELL IS A HOTTIE LIKE THAT DOING WITH A FREAK LIKE THE COUNT?!!

LEON! YOU'RE ON DUTY !!

LET YOURSELF DREAM, AND BECOME WHAT YOU WILL.
BE A BIRD THAT SOARS HIGH OVERHEAD...
A FISH SWIMMING THROUGH THE OCEAN'S DEPTHS...
EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF THE HUNT...
...UNDER A LUSH CANOPY OF GREEN.
LOSE YOURSELVES IN THE ECSTASY OF THE WILD...

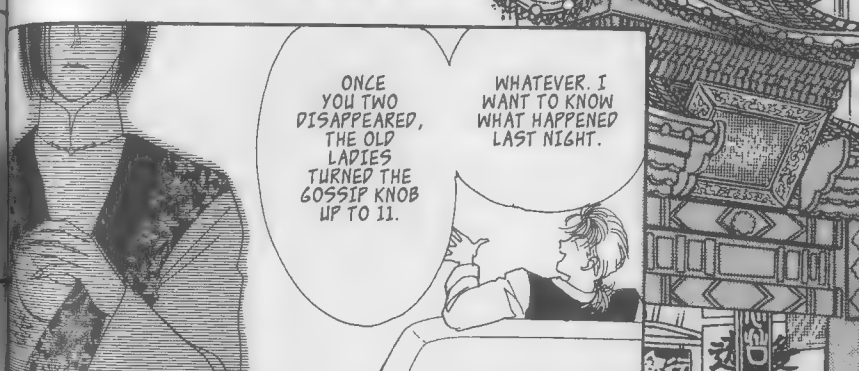
LET THE INCENSE BURN...
NOW CALM YOUR-SELVES.... RELAX.
HERE YOU ARE.
FUCK THAT, MAN. HE SHOULD START A DAMN BUSINESS.
HEY, COUNTS, YOU NEED TO BRING MORE OF THIS STUFF.
WE CAN WORK FOR YOU. MAKE SOME FINE GREEN.
OH YEAH, BABY, I IS FEELIN' IT!
GET YOU HIGH AS A FREAKIN' KITE.
OH, HELL YEAH.... THE COUNT'S SHIT IS ALWAYS THE BEST.
WE CAN DISCUSS THIS LATER, GENTLEMEN. FOR NOW, PLEASE ENJOY THE EVENING.
AWW, C'MON, COUNTS ...
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS NOT FOR SALE.

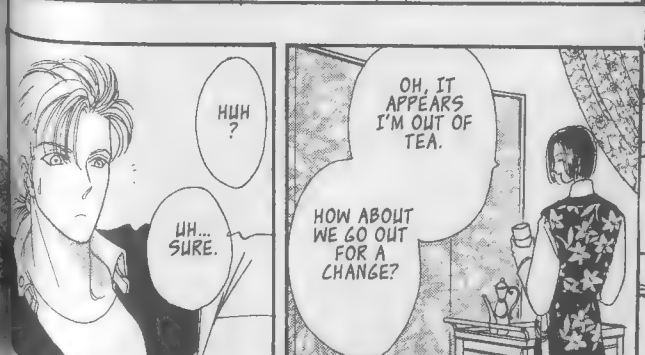
VERY WELL. YOU WIN, PRINCESS.
WHY DON'T WE GO TO MY SHOP?
YOU CAN JOIN ME FOR SOME TEA.
OH, COME ON, COUNT !!
YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.
GUYS JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO SPEND A NIGHT WITH ME, AND YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A DAMN MONK!

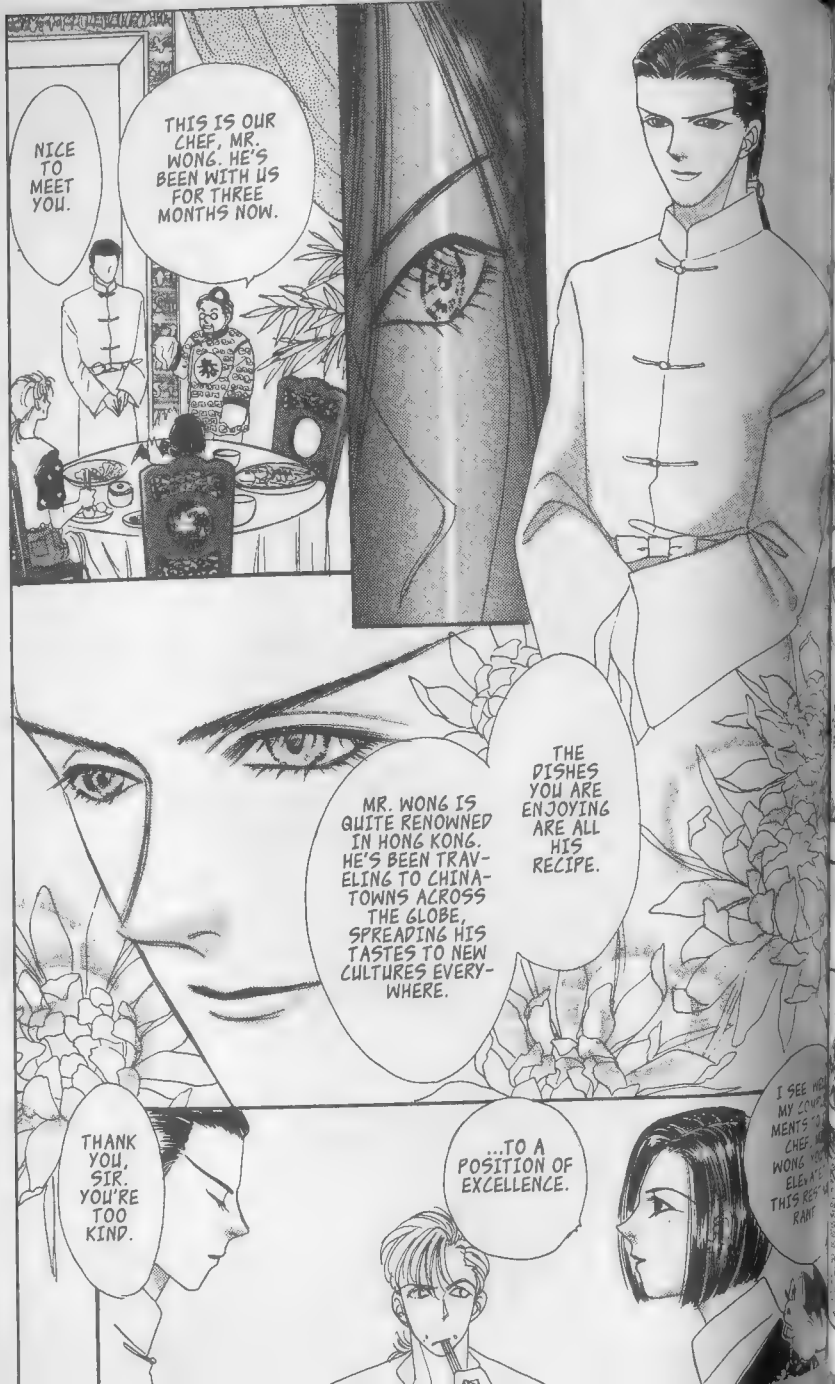
MISS ANESSA, I--
CAN YOU TAKE ME HOME?
HEY! NONE OF THIS "MISS ANESSA" CRAP!
COUNT, WAIT!
ARE YOU LEAVING?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HER.
THE ONLY TIME MY MOM CARES ABOUT HOW I SPEND MY EVENINGS IS WHEN IT AFFECTS HER SOCIAL STATUS.
YOUR MOTHER WILL BE QUITE UPSET.

AND WHO'S YOUR FRIEND? VERY NICE, COUNT. HEH HEH...
WELL, HELLO! WELCOME, YOUNG MASTER OF THE PET SHOP!!
EXCELLENT, SIR. RIGHT THIS WAY. YOUR NORMAL BOOTH AWAITS.
THIS IS OFFICER ORCOT, AND WE'LL HAVE THE USUAL.
EVERYONE IN CHINATOWN SEEMS TO KNOW THE COUNT...
WHOA...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? IT'S 1 P.M.!
OH, IT'S YOU, OFFICER...
YAWN
ISN'T IT A LITTLE EARLY FOR HOUSE CALLS?
YES ... JUST A MOMENT.
OH, WELL IT'S ALMOST TEATIME, THEN.


ONCE YOU TWO DISAPPEARED, THE OLD LADIES TURNED THE GOSSIP KNOB UP TO 11.
WHATEVER. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT.


HUH?
UH... SURE.
OH, IT APPEARS I'M OUT OF TEA.
HOW ABOUT WE GO OUT FOR A CHANGE?


NICE TO MEET YOU.
THIS IS OUR CHEF, MR. WONG. HE'S BEEN WITH US FOR THREE MONTHS NOW.
THE DISHES YOU ARE ENJOYING ARE ALL HIS RECIPE.
MR. WONG IS QUITE RENOWNED IN HONG KONG. HE'S BEEN TRAVELING TO CHINATOWNS ACROSS THE GLOBE, SPREADING HIS TASTES TO NEW CULTURES EVERYWHERE.
THANK YOU, SIR. YOU'RE TOO KIND.
...TO A POSITION OF EXCELLENCE.

HEH HEH...
CRUNCH
THE BEEF...
SUCH FLAVOR ...
MUNCH
THIS IS GREAT !!
SLURP
SUCH TENDERNESS...
THE FISH...
GULP
BUT IT'S NOT GREASY ...

ALL THESE DISHES ARE VEGETARIAN.
HUH?
I SEE YOU COULDN'T TELL...

EAT UP, OFFICER. THERE'S PLENTY.
I TRUST ALL IS TO YOUR LIKING?
NO KIDDING...
NO, THAT'S ACTUALLY A ROOT. THE DISHES ARE MADE TO TASTE LIKE MEAT, BUT THEY'RE ALL VEGETABLE BASED.
THIS IS A STYLE CALLED "SU TSAI." IT'S QUITE POPULAR IN NORTHERN CHINA.

WHAT WE EAT MAY BE DIFFERENT, BUT IT'S NOT DISGUSTING.
DISGUSTING? WHAT DO YOU MEAN DIS-GUSTING?!
AND IT'S ACTUALLY HEALTHIER FOR YOU THAN YOUR AMERICAN FAST FOOD.
THE ONLY WAY I CAN ENJOY CHINESE FOOD IS IF I DON'T ASK WHAT'S IN IT. I MEAN, SOME OF THE SHIT YOU GUYS EAT IS DISGUSTING.
I KEEP FORGET-TING...
I'M GONNA HURL...
THE ANIMAL DOES MATTER. TAKE DOG FOR EXAMPLE...
I HUMBLY DIS-AGREE, MASTER CHU.
IF YOU ARE A MEAT EATER, YOU ARE AN EATER OF FLESH. WHAT DIFFER-ENCE DOES IT MAKE WHICH ANIMAL THE FLESH BELONGS TO?
YOU AMER-ICANS ARE SO IGNO-RANT.
I'M NOT HUNGRY ANYMORE
WE LIVE IN A FILTHY WORLD, SO A LIFE THAT HAS KNOWN ONLY THE COMFORT OF THE WOMB IS ABSOLUTE-LY DELICIOUS.
...IS THE MEAT OF THEIR UNBORN YOUNG.
IT IS SAID THAT THE WORLD'S FINEST DELICACY...

I SEE...
THE COUNT HERE HAS ONE HELLUVA SWEET TOOTH.
I'M SURPRISED HE ORDERS ANYTHING THAT'S NOT ON THE DESSERT MENU.
ACTUALLY...
I'M CURIOUS, THOUGH.
I WAS TOLD THAT YOU ALWAYS ORDER COURSES WITH NO MEAT. IS THERE A REASON FOR THAT?
WELL, I--

WHICH ARE THEN HARVESTED FOR SOUP, FORCING THE BIRDS TO MAKE MORE NESTS, WHICH ARE AGAIN HARVESTED, SO THEY BUILD MORE, ON AND ON.
OFFICER, DO YOU KNOW HOW THAT SOUP IS MADE?
BIRDS USE THEIR SALIVA TO CREATE THEIR NESTS...
IT'S ACTUALLY MADE FROM SEAWEED, BUT...
THEN THIS BIRD'S NEST SOUP IS PROBABLY NOT TO YOUR LIKING?
OH, WAIT, I'LL HAVE IT...

IT'S THE RESULT OF HAVING TO REBUILD THEIR NEST SO OFTEN. BUT EAT UP. THAT SOUP'S CONSID-ERED A DELICACY IN THE GOURMET WORLD.
A CRIMSON MIXTURE OF BLOOD AND SALIVA.
IN THE END, THEIR NESTS END UP RED.

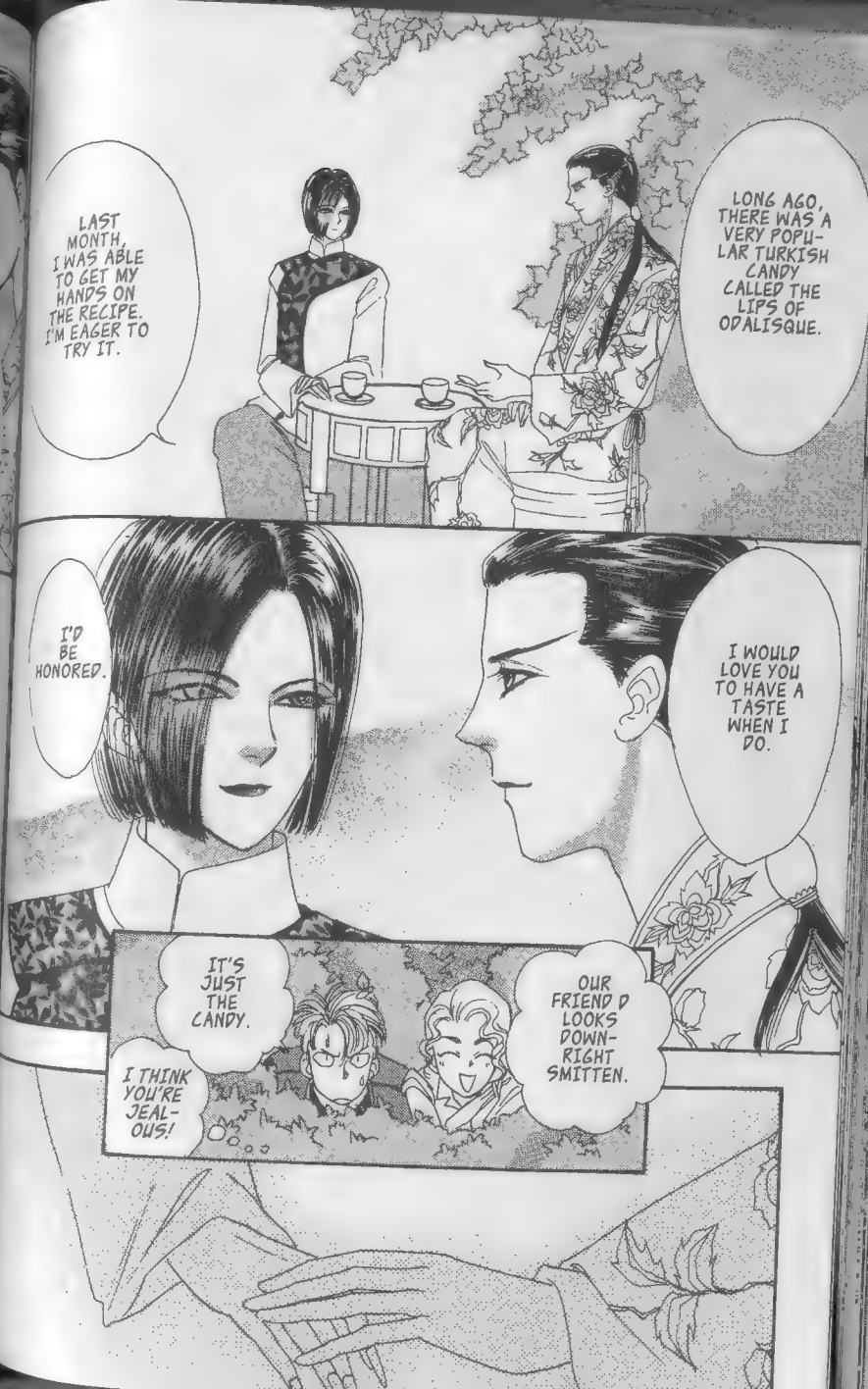
HEY, COUNT...
D?
FOR ONCE I CAN UNDERSTAND EXCITEMENT... THIS IS GOOD!
NO MATTER HOW DELICIOUS THE ENTREE, A BAD FINISH CAN RUIN EVERYTHING.
THE DESSERT MUST BE PERFECT IF THE MEAL IS TO END WELL.
...FOR DESSERT.
FAIR ENOUGH, BUT I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR APPETITE...
THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU GUYS ARE MAKING ME SICK!
お・おいしい
AH
THE ANNIN DOUFU!!
THIS...THIS IS A DESSERT OF CHINESE LEGEND, CREATED DURING THE QIN DYNASTY BY EMPEROR HUANGDI HIMSELF!
OH MY!!
WHAT THE..?!

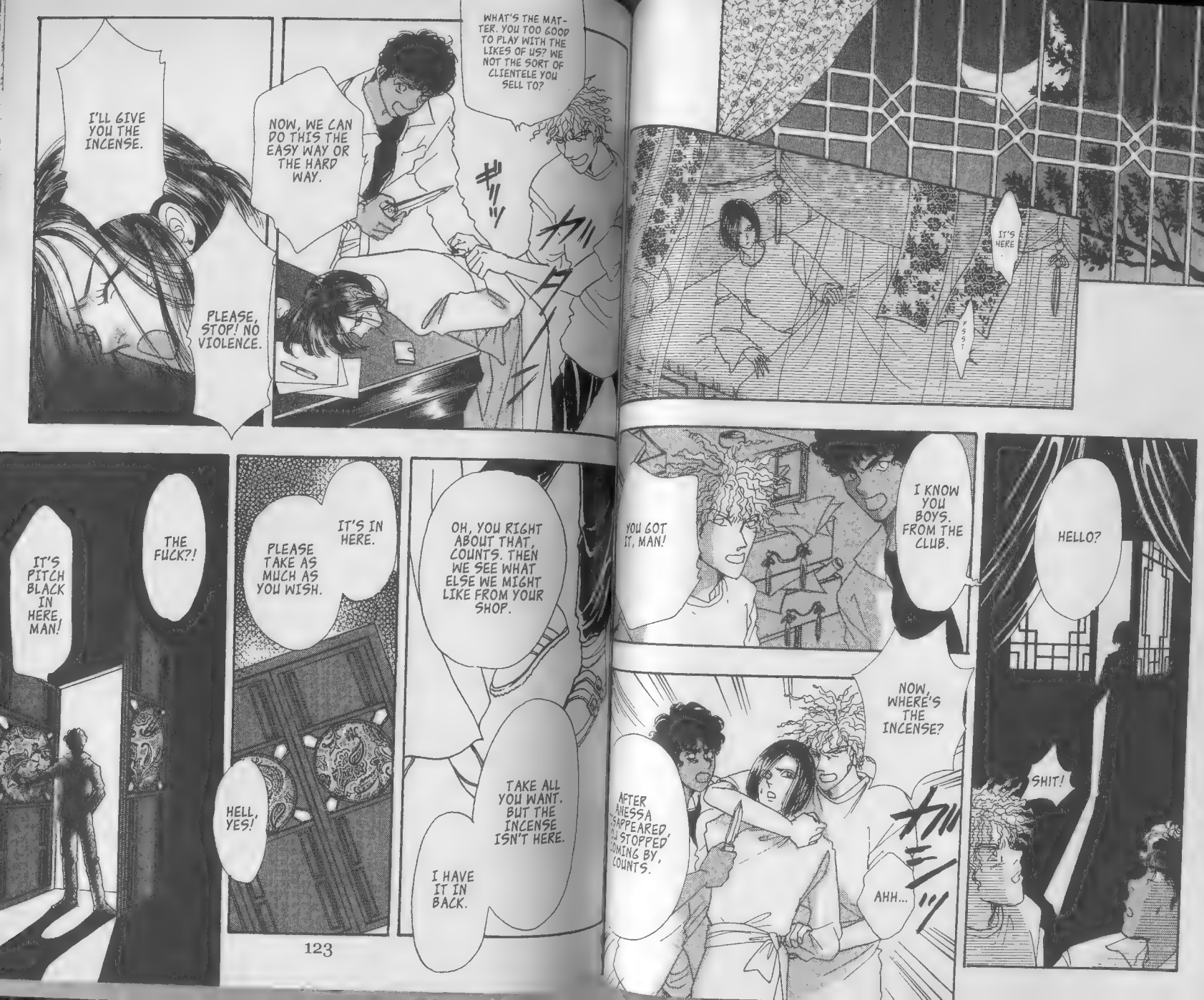
IT'S PROBABLY THE GUY WHO'S THE SHIT. HER FRIENDS COULD HAVE JUST AS LIKELY SEEN HER LEAVE WITH BOZO THE CLOWN.
IF YOU CAN FIND SOMEONE THERE WHO'S NOT ROLLING, HIGH, FRIED OR DUSTED...
HEH! I WOULDN'T EXPECT THEIR TESTIMONY TO HOLD UP IN COURT. CLUB SINGE IS A HOTSPOT FOR DRUG USE. NARCOTICS HAVE HAD IT ON THEIR RADAR FOR MONTHS.
DRUGS ?!
PARENTS THAT HAVE BEEN BUSTING THE COMMISSIONER'S ASS...
13 YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF HIGH SOCIETY. 13 CHILDREN WITH VERY POWERFUL PARENTS.
THAT MAKES IT 13!
DAILY
Anessa Burtley
High Crimes in High Society!
Mysterious Disappearances Continue.
Kidnapper Strikes Again!
KEEPING AN EYE ON ORLOT
.....
YOUR GUT HASN'T BEEN VERY RELIABLE LATELY.
DRUGS OR NOT, D'S INVOLVED IN THIS.
I JUST KNOW IT. I FEEL IT IN MY GUT.
DETECTIVE, IF A COP CAN'T TRUST HIS INSTINCTS, IT'S TIME TO HANG UP HIS BADGE.
AND I JUST HAD MINE POLISHED.
SHE WAS LAST SEEN DOWNTOWN AT CLUB SINGE ON SATURDAY NIGHT.
THE LAST PERSON SHE WAS SEEN WITH WAS OUR FRIEND FROM CHINATOWN, COUNT D.
I MAY HAVE A TIP ON ANESSA BURTLEY.
HER FRIENDS SAID THEY SAW HER LEAVE AT AROUND 1 A.M.
NOT AGAIN, LEON.
THEY SAID SHE LEFT WITH THE COUNT.

I ENJOYED OUR CONVERSATION THE OTHER DAY. I JUST MADE SOME OUKATOU. WOULD YOU CARE TO JOIN ME?
I HAVEN'T HAD OUKATOU SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
OUKA-TOU!!
MR. WONG?
I WANTED TO THANK YO...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DUMPED.
WHAT ABOUT THE SABAIYEN MOUSSE?!
WHAT THE...?! HEY, COUNT!

ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST VISITING MRS. BURTLEY.
YOU DON'T SAY.
I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU.
IF THEY'RE ABOUT MISS ANESSA, I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO--
EEP!
YO, COUNT! WHERE YOU OFF TO?
IF YOU WANT SOME, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO TAKE A RIDE DOWN-TOWN WITH US.
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S THE SABAIYEN MOUSSE FROM LA BLANCHE.
HOLD ON A MINUTE
THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS...
COUNT, WHAT'S THIS?!
GASP
La Blanche
COUNT ?!

IT MUST BE DIFFICULT, TAKING CARE OF SO MANY ANIMALS...
YET, YOUR HANDS ARE QUITE SMOOTH.
IT'S ACTUALLY QUITE SIMPLE.
YOUR HAIR, TOO...
A NICE COLOR. DARK AS NIGHT.
I SUPPOSE. I WAS GOING TO LET IT GROW...
ALL RIGHT, LOVERBOY LET'S GIVE THEM THEIR PRIVACY.
BLARRRGH!


LONG AGO, THERE WAS A VERY POPULAR TURKISH CANDY CALLED THE LIPS OF ODALISQUE.
LAST MONTH, I WAS ABLE TO GET MY HANDS ON THE RECIPE. I'M EAGER TO TRY IT.
I WOULD LOVE YOU TO HAVE A TASTE WHEN I DO.
I'D BE HONORED.
OUR FRIEND D LOOKS DOWNRIGHT SMITTEN.
IT'S JUST THE CANDY.
I THINK YOU'RE JEALOUS!


I'LL GIVE YOU THE INCENSE.
NOW, WE CAN DO THIS THE EASY WAY OR THE HARD WAY.
WHAT'S THE MATTER. YOU TOO GOOD TO PLAY WITH THE LIKES OF US? WE NOT THE SORT OF CLIENTELE YOU SELL TO?
PLEASE, STOP! NO VIOLENCE.
IT'S HERE.
PSST
THE FUCK?!
IT'S PITCH BLACK IN HERE, MAN!
IT'S IN HERE.
PLEASE TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU WISH.
HELL, YES!
OH, YOU RIGHT ABOUT THAT, COUNTS. THEN WE SEE WHAT ELSE WE MIGHT LIKE FROM YOUR SHOP.
TAKE ALL YOU WANT. BUT THE INCENSE ISN'T HERE.
I HAVE IT IN BACK.
YOU GOT IT, MAN!
I KNOW YOU BOYS. FROM THE CLUB.
AFTER ANESSA DISAPPEARED, I STOPPED COMING BY, COUNTS.
NOW, WHERE'S THE INCENSE?
AHH...
HELLO?
SHIT!

HEY... SMELL THAT?
OH, YEAH! I KNOW THAT SMELL!
WE NEED SOME LIGHT.
WHAT THE HELL ?!
SHIT, TY. LOOK AT THAT!
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
WHAT THE FUCK YOU TRYIN' TO PULL, COUNTS ?!

UNBORN CHILD?
HER STOMACH HAD BEEN CUT OPEN AND HER UNBORN CHILD HAD BEEN REMOVED. THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE FETUS.
TAKE DOG FOR EXAMPLE...
IT IS SAID THAT THE WORLD'S FINEST DELICACY...
IS THE MEAT OF THEIR UNBORN YOUNG.
WE LIVE IN A FILTHY WORLD, SO A LIFE THAT HAS KNOWN...
ONLY THE COMFORT OF THE WOMB IS ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS.

LIKE ANESSA, THEY WERE REGULARS AT CLUB SINGE.
GUYS THIS TIME.
TWO MORE!
WE HAVEN'T FOUND A BODY...
WHICH MEANS THAT THIS IS STILL JUST A MISSING PERSONS CASE, NOT A HOMICIDE, EVEN THOUGH--
WE FOUND A BODY!!
YOU GUYS EATEN YET?
APPARENTLY, MACLAIN WAS EIGHT MONTHS PREGNANT...
WHAT'S THE CAUSE OF DEATH?
SHE WAS THE FIRST VICTIM. THREE MONTHS AGO...
WE FOUND IT AT THE EAST BANK GARBAGE DISPOSAL CENTER. IT'S PRETTY MESSED UP, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO GET A PRINT.
IT'S BEEN IDENTIFIED AS BELONGING TO LAURA MACLAIN.

...WHEN COMPARED TO YOUR LIPS...
THE BLOOD OF A VEGETARIAN IS EVER SO PURE...
SO... SWEET...
YES...
MASTER CHU WOULD PROBABLY BE JEALOUS IF HE FOUND OUT.
I HAVE HEARD THAT ONLY THE MOST SPECIAL OF GUESTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN YOU FOR TEA.
ESPECIALLY IF HE KNEW WHAT WE WERE EATING.
ONLY...
AH, YES. THE LIPS OF ODELISQUE.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVITATION. I AM HONORED.

COUNT...
YOUR FLESH MUST BE TENDER AND FLAVORFUL.

FOR WINE, THE BLOOD OF A LIVING VIRGIN GIRL...
THE MAIN DISH CAN ONLY BE THE TENDER MUSCLES OF A STRONG, YOUNG MAN.
A MOTHER'S UNBORN CHILD.
THE UNMATCHED TASTE ALLOWS FOR THE PERFECT APPETIZER.
MY RECIPE FOR A PERFECT MEAL...
AND TO BRING THE MEAL TO A STATE OF CULINARY PERFECTION...
...I'VE FINALLY COME ACROSS THE PERFECT DESSERT.

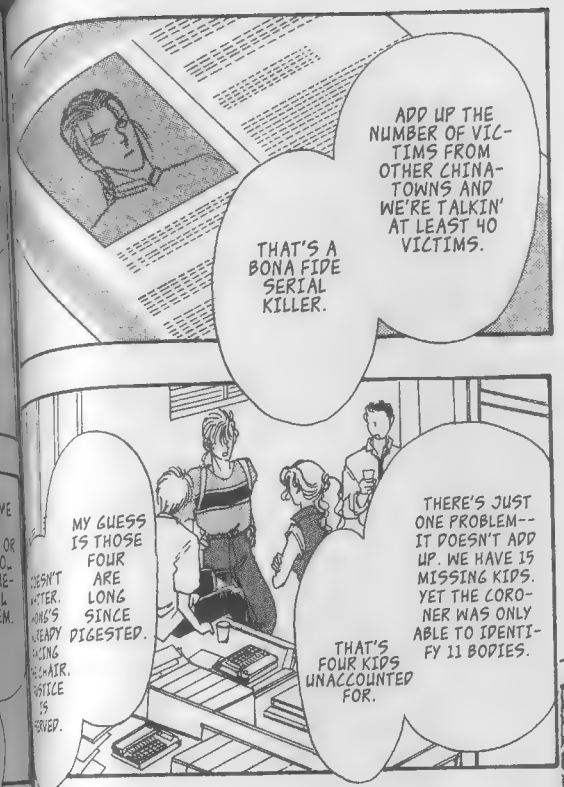
!!
I'M FINE. ACTUALLY, THINGS WERE JUST GETTING INTERESTING...
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!
HE WAS ABOUT TO EAT YOU, COUNT!!!
YOU WERE ONE STEP AWAY FROM BECOMING TAKE-OUT! WONG'S APARTMENT WAS FILLED WITH PARTS FROM ALL OUR MISSING KIDS!!
WERE YOU WAITING FOR HIM TO SPRINKLE SOY SAUCE ON YOU?!
AH... YES...
IT'S OVER, WONG!!
STEP AWAY FROM THE COUNT.
YOU ALL RIGHT, D?
.....

JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER AND HE WOULD HAVE BEEN MINE.
IN ORDER TO OBTAIN HIM, I WOULD HAVE GIVEN UP AN ARM OR TWO WITHOUT HESITATION.
I COULD TELL THE MOMENT I FIRST SAW HIM.
BECAUSE HE IS A TOTETSU.
HUH?
THE MAN-EATING BEAST THAT ROAMED THROUGHOUT ANCIENT CHINA.
TOTETSU...
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED THAT I'D FIND ONE LIVING IN AMERICA.

OH, YOU POOR THING.
LOOK AT YOU...

NO KIDDING? THAT GUY IS SOMETHING ELSE.
OH YEAH, YOU MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT YOUR FRIEND THE COUNT HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TO VISIT HIM.

IT'S ACTUALLY KINDA ROMANTIC.
WELL, COME ON NOW MURDERER OR NOT, IF YOU LOVE SOMEONE, YOU LOVE THEM.
NOTHING CHANGES AS FAR AS THE HEART IS CONCERNED.
OH, PLEASE...
IT'S TRUE!


ADD UP THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS FROM OTHER CHINATOWNS AND WE'RE TALKIN' AT LEAST 40 VICTIMS.
THAT'S A BONA FIDE SERIAL KILLER.
MY GUESS IS THOSE FOUR ARE LONG SINCE DIGESTED.
THERE'S JUST ONE PROBLEM--IT DOESN'T ADD UP. WE HAVE 15 MISSING KIDS. YET THE CORONER WAS ONLY ABLE TO IDENTIFY 11 BODIES.
THAT'S FOUR KIDS UNACCOUNTED FOR.

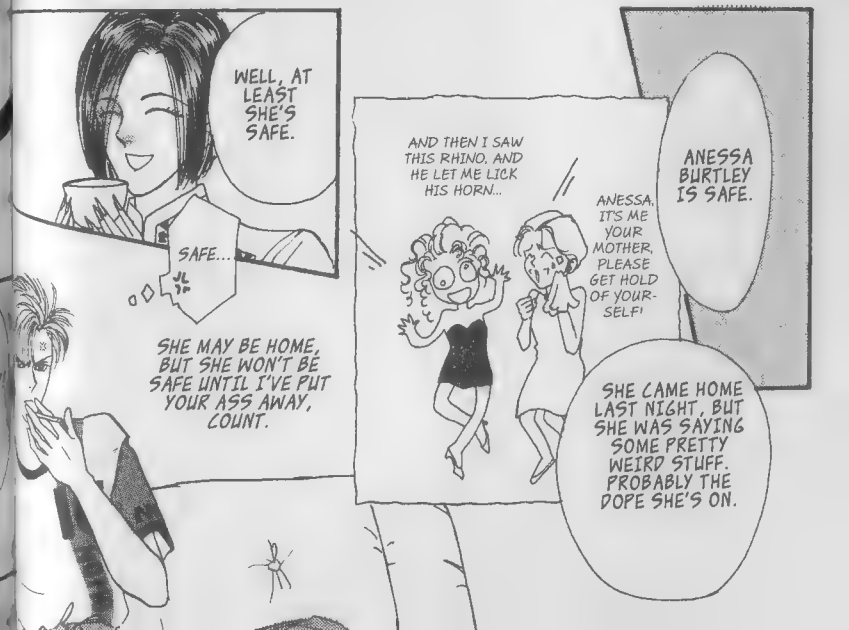
ACTUALLY, HE'S COPPING AN INSANITY PLEA. HE MAY ESCAPE THE DEATH PENALTY.
WHAT?!
DON'T WORRY. WHETHER HE'S DEAD, BEHIND BARS, OR IN A PADDED ROOM, HE'S OFF THE STREET. LOTS OF PARENTS WILL BE SLEEPING BETTER TONIGHT.

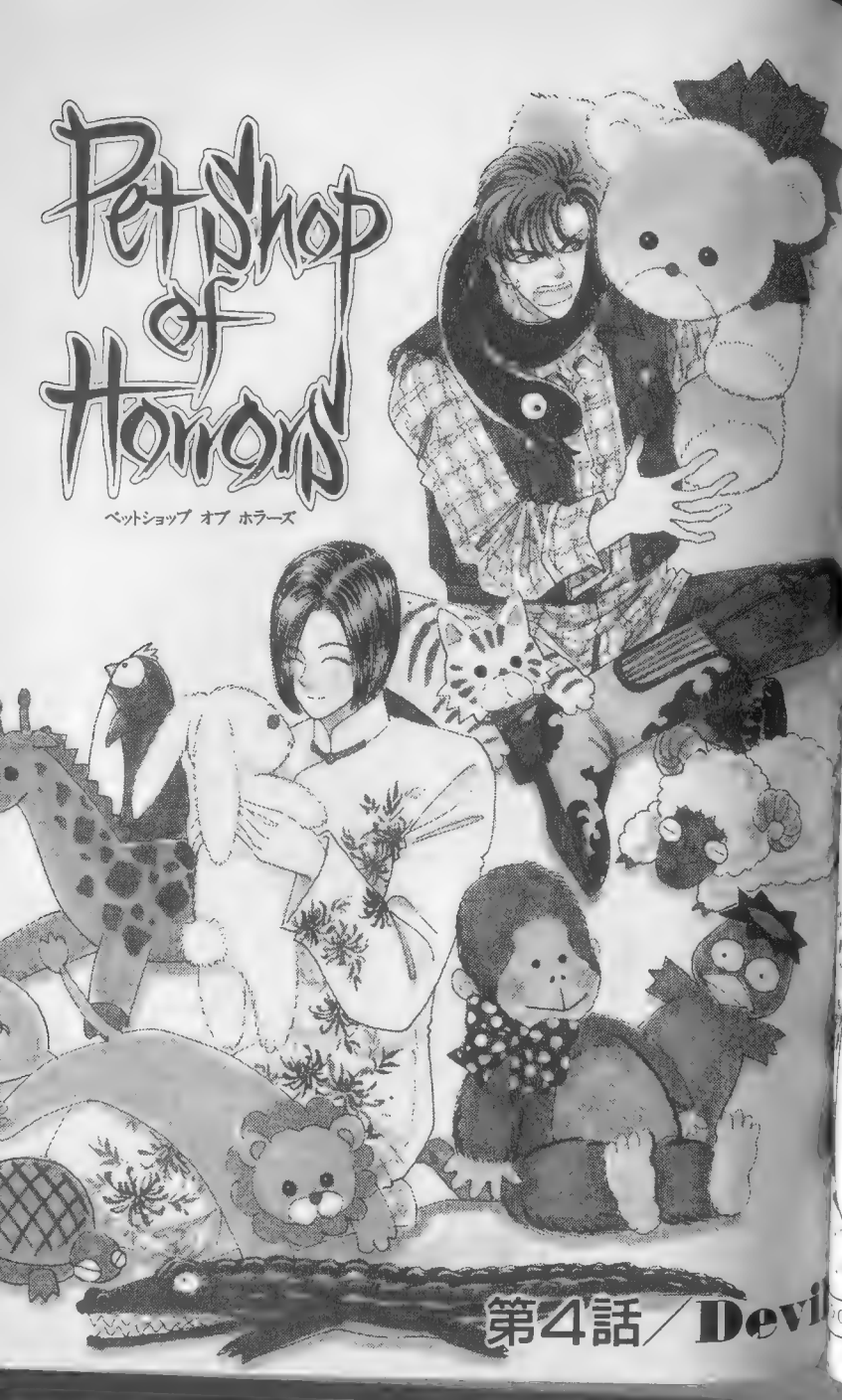
NINE IN HAWAII, SEVEN IN NEW YORK...
TEN IN SAN FRANCISCO...

COWS EAT GRASS...
OWLS HUNT FOR RODENTS...
YOU WERE ONLY BEHAVING IN A WAY THAT'S NATURAL FOR YOUR KIND.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO MY SHOP?
THROW AWAY THE SHELL OF A BODY? I PROMISE THERE ARE NO HARD FEELINGS.
AND THE BEST PART IS... IN MY STORE YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CATCHING FOOD...
...SINCE THE FOOD IS MORE THAN WILLING TO COME TO YOU.

I JUST WISH HE HAD DONE IT BEFORE HE KILLED THOSE KIDS.
I SEE...
HOW IS WONG DOING?
OH... HIM.
WONG'S DEAD.
HE CHEWED THROUGH THE STRAIGHTJACKET AND DUG OUT HIS OWN HEART. TRIED TO EAT IT, FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS.
SHOULD I BE?
WELL, I WOULD THINK...
AREN'T YOU SURPRISED?
"I SEE..."?!
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?!

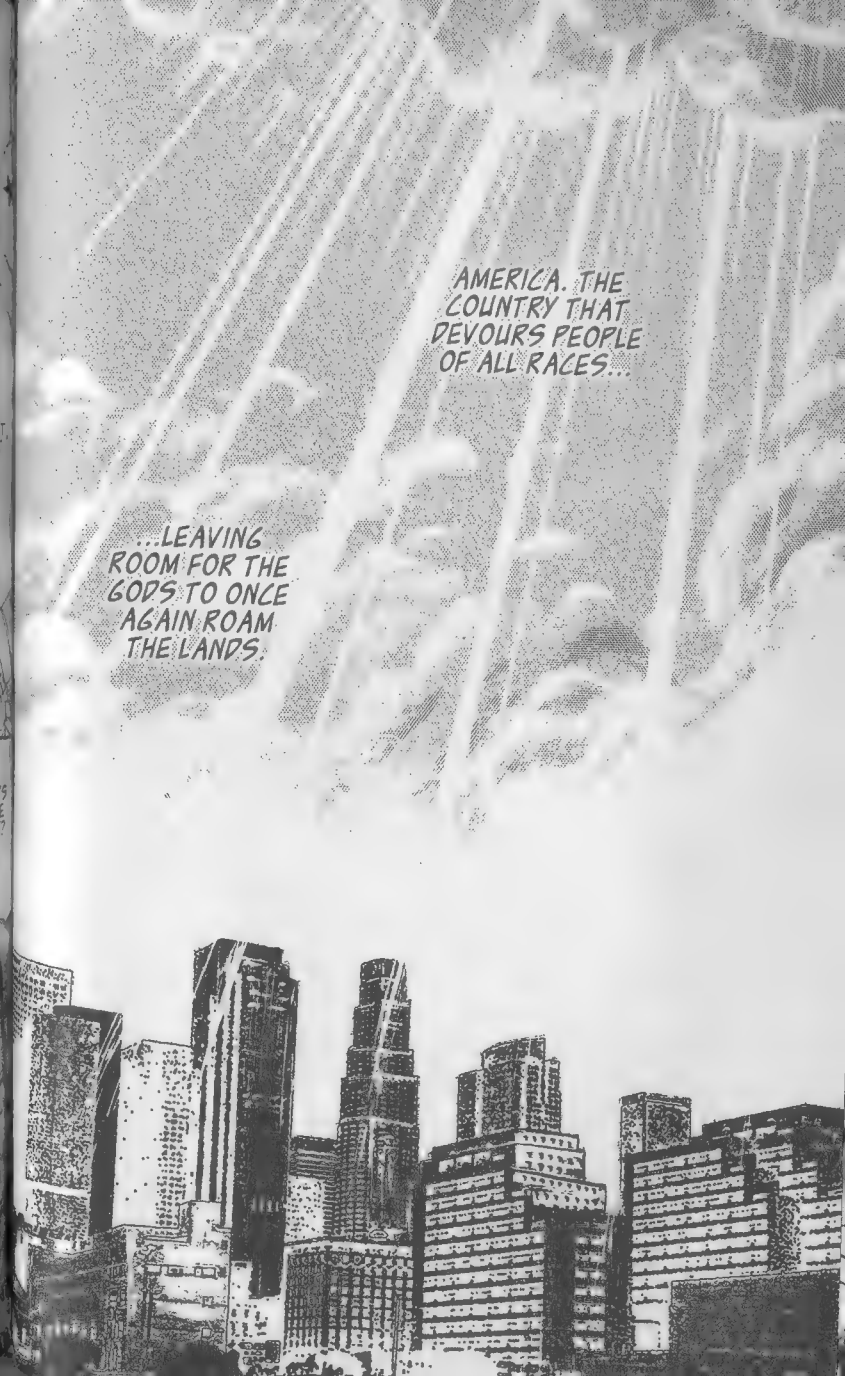
I'LL POUR SOME TEA IMMEDIATELY.
COOKIES! WHY OFFICER, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE!
OH, IT'S JUST YOU, OFFICER.
GOOD MORNING!
NEWS?
I CAME HERE TO GIVE YOU SOME NEWS.
ACTUALLY...

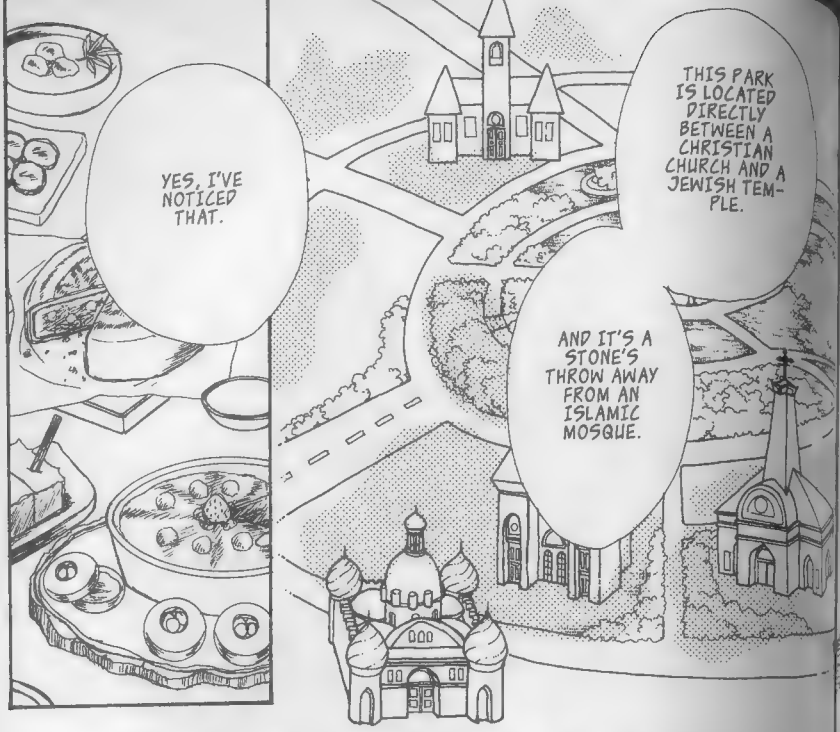

WELL, AT LEAST SHE'S SAFE.
SAFE...
SHE MAY BE HOME, BUT SHE WON'T BE SAFE UNTIL I'VE PUT YOUR ASS AWAY, COUNT.
AND THEN I SAW THIS RHINO, AND HE LET ME LICK HIS HORN...
ANESSA, IT'S ME YOUR MOTHER, PLEASE GET HOLD OF YOURSELF!
ANESSA BURTLEY IS SAFE.
SHE CAME HOME LAST NIGHT, BUT SHE WAS SAYING SOME PRETTY WEIRD STUFF. PROBABLY THE DOPE SHE'S ON.

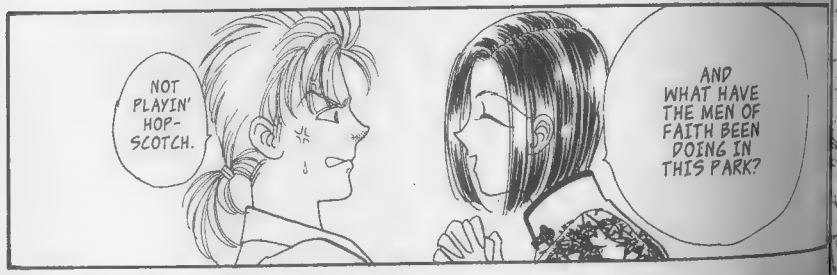

Pet Shop of Horrors
ペットショップ オブ ホラーズ
第4話／Devi

WHAT THE HELL'S UP WITH THAT DOG-LOOKING CREATURE WITH HORNS? IT'S FREAKIN' ME OUT.
.....
BY THE WAY...
YOU KNOW I DONT CARE ABOUT HUMANS.
I FORGOT ABOUT THAT.
OH, YEAH ...
FREAK-AZOID.
OH, THIS CHILD IS A CLOSE RELATIVE TO THE SHEEP...
I JUST ACQUIRED HIM.
ISN'T HE ADORABLE?
OF EPISODE 3

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IS IT UNUSUAL TO FIND A MAN WALKING DOWN A STREET?
HOLD IT, COUNT D!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING AROUND HERE?
WHAT'S IN THE TRUNK?
I'LL BE THE ONE TO DECIDE THAT.
OPEN IT, D.
CARE TO POP THAT OPEN FOR ME?
OKAY, OKAY. FINE...
OFFICER, THERE IS NOTHING IN THIS TRUNK THAT WILL INTEREST YOU.


AMERICA. THE COUNTRY THAT DEVOURS PEOPLE OF ALL RACES...
...LEAVING ROOM FOR THE GODS TO ONCE AGAIN ROAM THE LANDS.


YES, I'VE NOTICED THAT.
THIS PARK IS LOCATED DIRECTLY BETWEEN A CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND A JEWISH TEMPLE.
AND IT'S A STONE'S THROW AWAY FROM AN ISLAMIC MOSQUE.


NOT PLAYIN' HOPSCOTCH.
AND WHAT HAVE THE MEN OF FAITH BEEN DOING IN THIS PARK?

THINGS ARE TENSE BETWEEN THE JEWISH AND ISLAMIC PEOPLE.
BECAUSE OF WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN ISRAEL...

SINCE IT'S A NICE DAY, I THOUGHT WHY NOT TAKE TEA OUTSIDE?
IT'S A GORGEOUS SPRING AFTERNOON.
ORCOT, YOU TAKIN' A NAP?!

UH OH... SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE IN TROUBLE. I TAKE IT YOU'RE ON DUTY.
WE HAD A TIP.
ANOTHER TERRORIST BOMBER.

Bitte Geben Sir mir Schokolade.
(COULD I HAVE A CHOCOLATE AS WELL?)
Wie geht es Ihnen?
(GREETINGS.)
GERMAN?
?
?
Entschuldigen Sie! Wie ist Ihr Name?
(EXCUSE ME FOR ASKING, BUT YOU ARE...?)
COME ON. LET'S GO, GRANDMA.
I'M SORRY. MY GRANDMOTHER'S MISTAKEN YOU FOR SOMEONE.
GRANDMA!
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
I AM COUNT D.
ALTHOUGH THAT'S NOT MY REAL NAME.
JUST A MOMENT, MISS.

AND OF COURSE, THE CHRISTIANS CAN'T HELP STICKING THEIR NOSES INTO THE POWDER KEG.
OF COURSE.
AND THIS PARK IS THE LIKELY BATTLEGROUND.
THERE'S A DAMN HOLY WAR BREWING. A BONAFIDE JIHAD.
.....
I'M TELLIN' YA, D. THIS DAMN ASSIGNMENT HAS GOTTEN SO OUT OF HAND...
...THAT IT'S TURNED HALF THE DEPARTMENT INTO ATHEISTS.
COUNT...?

GRAND-MA!
DON'T BE SILLY, CHILD.
GRAND-MA? YOU REMEMBER ME?
OF COURSE, I DO.
HEY, WHAT THE HELL DID YOUR GRANDFATHER SELL TO THIS POOR LADY?
WHAT? HOW WOULD I KNOW?
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
.....?
GRANDMA! THIS PERSON IS THE GRANDSON OF THE COUNT YOU MET LONG AGO.
PAPPY?
PLEASE COME BY AND SEE PAPPY.
OH YES, COUNT
HE?!
I'M SURE HE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN AS WELL.
COULD YOU COME OVER TO MY HOUSE?
UH... COUNT, IF IT'S NOT ANY TROUBLE...
IT'S REALLY CLOSE.
SURE...

HEY, THAT'S TRUE. THIS GUY LOOKS FREAK-ISHLY LIKE HIS GRANDPA.
I'VE ONLY SEEN A PICTURE, BUT YEESH
I THINK THAT SHE MAY BE MISTAKING ME FOR MY GRAND-FATHER.
MY GRAND-FATHER HAS TRAVELED THROUGHOUT EUROPE. PERHAPS HE MET YOUR GRAND-MOTHER THEN...
UNFORTU-NATELY, LAST YEAR SHE HAD A STROKE...
SHE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ANYONE. SHE HAS A HARD TIME EVEN REMEMBERING WHO SHE IS.
THAT'S WHY I WAS SO SURPRISED THAT SHE RECOGNIZED YOU. AND THAT SHE SPOKE IN GERMAN.
IT'S POSSI-BLE...
.....
MY GRAND-MA USED TO LIVE IN GERMANY.
HER NAME WAS ROSEMARY HENDEL.
CINDY ...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

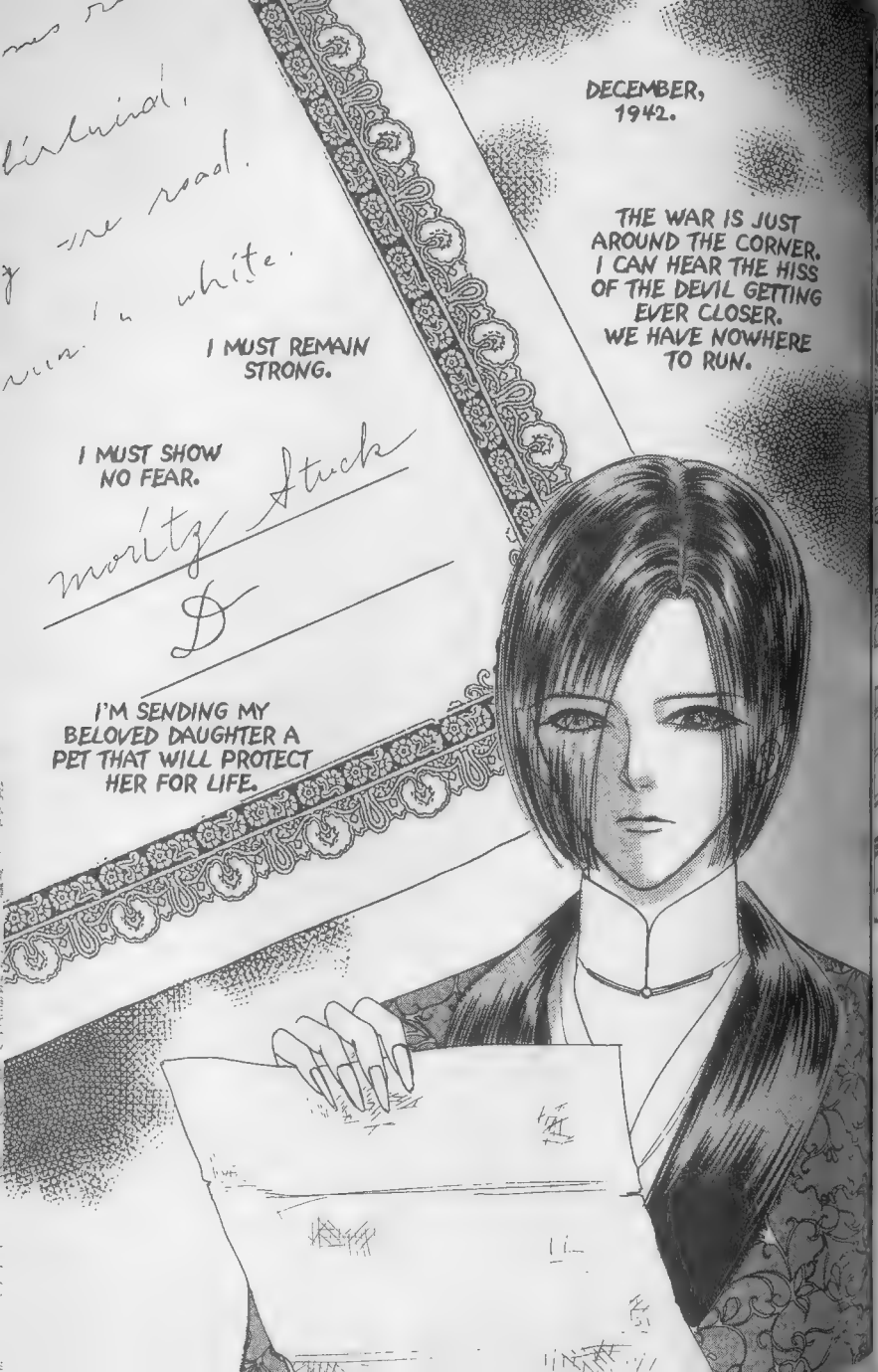
THERE SHOULD BE AROUND A THOUSAND OR SO.
THEY ALL BELONG TO MY GRANDMA.
IS THAT ONE WEARING A TOGA?
YES, THIS IS QUITE A BREEDING PIT, ISN'T IT?
WHAT THE HELL'S UP WITH ALL THE TEDDIES?!
OKAY, THAT'S JUST DAMN FREAKY.

WOW... THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
NO ONE BESIDES MY GRANDMA CAN DISTINGUISH HIM FROM THE REST.
THAT'S BECAUSE...
OH, COUNT, YOU REMEMBERED!
PAPPY !!
ACTUALLY, YOUR GRAND-FATHER GAVE MY GRANDMA HER VERY FIRST ONE.
NOT THAT YOU COULD FIND IT IN THIS HEAP. WAIT... IS THAT ONE DRESSED LIKE A MIME?
IF HE SAYS THE BEAR "SPOKE" TO HIM, I SWEAR I'M GONNA HIT HIM.
.....
LUCKY ... HAH... NOT THE FIRST TIME.
WELL, I GOT LUCKY.
STEIFF
SEE RIGHT HERE
THIS BUTTON ON ITS EAR.
THIS IS HOW YOU DISTINGUISH THE MODEL, MANUFACTURER, AND YEAR IT WAS MADE.
THE STEIFF COMPANY WENT OUT OF BUSINESS IN 1942 DURING THE WAR, SO I KNEW IT HAD TO BE AT LEAST THAT OLD...
YOU MUST BE PAPPY.

I THINK WE HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THIS, COUNT.
THE MEMORY OF MEETING YOUR GRANDFATHER MUST HAVE TRIGGERED IT.
BUT SHE HASN'T LOOKED SO WELL SINCE SHE HAD HER STROKE...
SORRY. YOU'RE RIGHT. SHE MAY STILL BE A NUT...
MY GOD, IS THAT ONE WEARING LEATHER PANTS?!
I'M AFRAID SO.
YEAH, IF SHE HAD SEEN THE REAL COUNT D, IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE TRIGGERED ANYTHING. GUESS YOU ARE GOOD FOR SOMETHING, COUNT.
AND I'D LOVE TO SPEAK WITH PAPPY SOME MORE.
I'D BE HAPPY TO.
PLEASE, COUNT, WOULD YOU COME AND VISIT GRANDMA AGAIN?

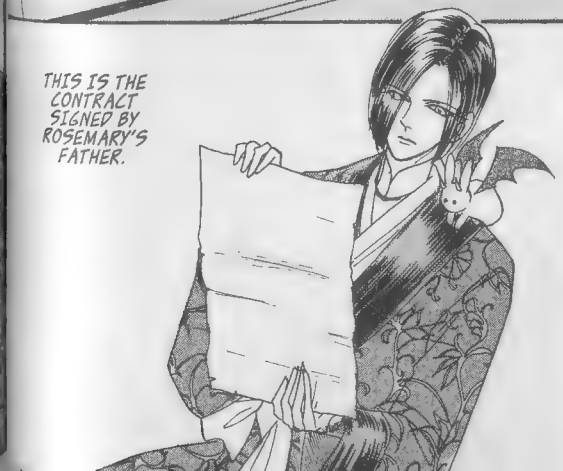
IT'S IN EXCELLENT CONDITION.
I SEE, AND THIS ONE IS A HELMAN COMPANY REPLICA. THIS HAS TO BE AT LEAST 75 YEARS OLD!
WHY, THIS IS A BLUE MOHAIR! THEY'RE MADE BY THE CHAD VARLEY COMPANY.
YES, YES. BUT HE'S QUITE STUBBORN.
YES, THAT ONE GOES BACK TO THE DAYS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.
I DIDN'T KNOW MOTHER COULD EVEN HAVE A NORMAL CONVERSATION!
IT'S A MIRACLE...
FRED!
JUST YESTERDAY SHE COULDN'T SAY HER OWN NAME!
OKAY, WELL, SHE'S STILL KINDA LOOPY, BUT AT LEAST SHE'S NOT DROOLING ANYMORE.
WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE WE HAVING A PARTY?
OH MY? CINDY...
WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
OH, HONEY...
HE'S CUTE!

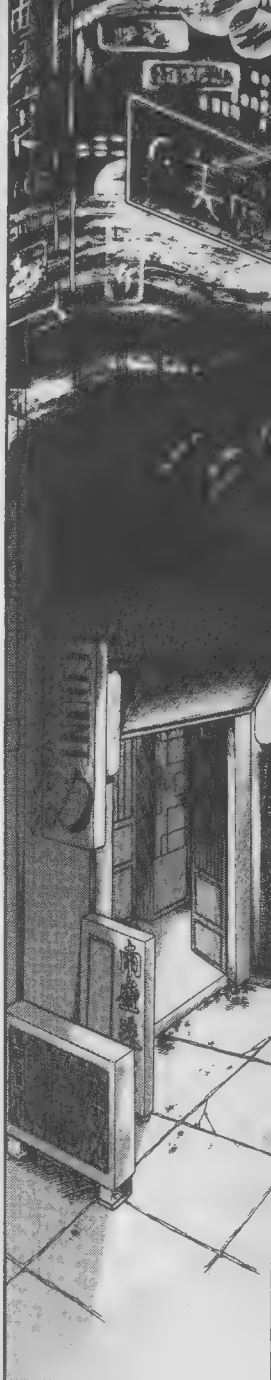
YES...
AND ON TOP OF THAT YOU CAN TOSS THEM WHEN YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH...
...AND NO ONE IS GOING TO COMPLAIN.
ACTUALLY I'LL TAKE A FAKE PET OVER A REAL ONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEED IT.
NO WALKS. NO STAINS ON THE CARPET. EVERYTHING IS MUCH EASIER.
AND ABOVE ALL, A STUFFED ANIMAL...
WILL NEVER DIE BEFORE THE OWNER DOES.
.....
YOU'RE A CREDIT TO YOUR NATION, OFFICER. BUT YOU SHOULD READ SOMETHING OTHER THAN MAXIM.
DID YOU KNOW THAT TEDDY BEARS WERE NAMED AFTER THE 26TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THEODORE ROOSEVELT?
WHAT? REALLY?
YES, LOTS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT TEDDY BEARS?
THERE SOMETHING ABOUT YOU I DON'T KNOW, COUNT?
IF A TEDDY BEAR'S OWNER LOVES IT LIKE A REAL ANIMAL, WHO'S TO SAY IT DOESN'T HAVE A SOUL?
SO, SELLING REAL ANIMALS DOESN'T KEEP YOU BUSY ENOUGH?
YOU SELLING FAKE ONES NOW TOO?


DECEMBER, 1942.
THE WAR IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. I CAN HEAR THE HISS OF THE DEVIL GETTING EVER CLOSER. WE HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN.
I MUST REMAIN STRONG.
I MUST SHOW NO FEAR.
I'M SENDING MY BELOVED DAUGHTER A PET THAT WILL PROTECT HER FOR LIFE.

THERE SHOULD BE A FILE ON IT SOMEWHERE...
LET'S SEE...
WORLD WAR II...
GER-MANY ...
HMM...

1942. Dec.
Bear
HERE WE ARE!


THIS IS THE CONTRACT SIGNED BY ROSEMARY'S FATHER.



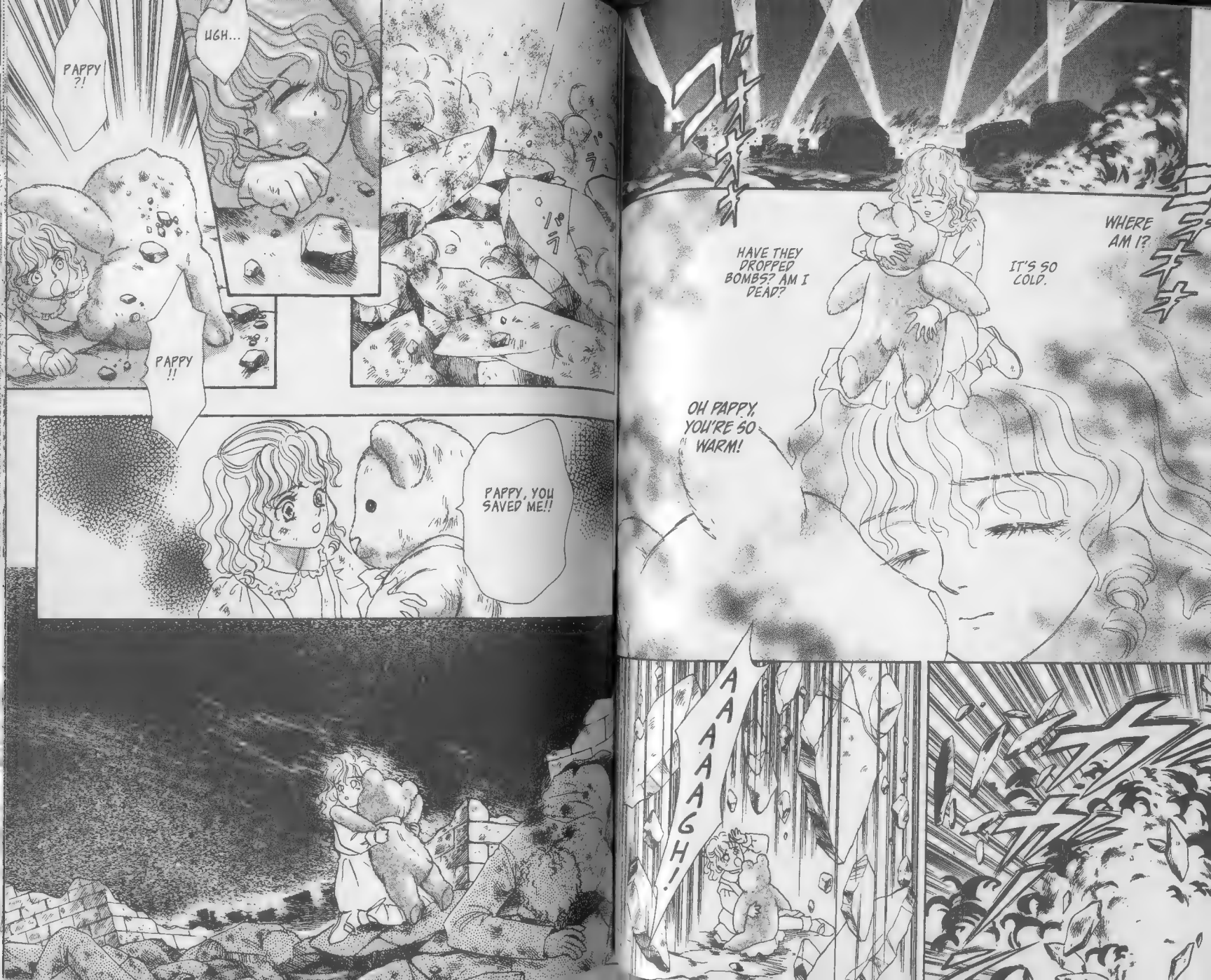
WHY?
MEMORIES FADE FOR A REASON, USUALLY TO HELP THE MIND DEAL WITH THE PAINFUL ONES. ISN'T IT BETTER TO FORGET WHAT ISN'T NEEDED?
I'M NOT SURE.
THEY'RE PART OF WHO SHE IS.
I'M SURE NOT ALL HER MEMORIES ARE GOOD ONES, BUT GOOD OR BAD...
ON THE OUTSIDE SHE IS...
BUT ON THE INSIDE?
WITHOUT THOSE MEMORIES...
IS SHE EVEN MY GRANDMOTHER?
HER MIND IS REGAINING ITS STRENGTH AND STARTING TO HEAL.
LATELY, SHE'S BEEN STARTING TO REMEMBER THINGS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER...
THE DOCTOR SAID SHE'S DOING REALLY WELL, AND HE THINKS IT'S GREAT THAT SHE'S USING HER TEDDY BEARS TO HELP HER REMEMBER.
I BOUGHT THIS ONE WHEN CINDY WAS BORN.
THIS ONE... I BOUGHT WHEN SALLY MARRIED HAROLD.
MOTHER...
WOW, GRANDMA!
YOU'RE DOING GREAT!

"GRANDMA"? I'M NOT EVEN MARRIED YET!
YOU'RE SURE A RUDE YOUNG LADY.
WHO ARE YOU?
WHO...?
WHAT?
IT'S ME, GRANDMA. CINDY.
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
OKAY, GRAND-MA?
GRAND-MA?!

THIS ONE CAME FROM THE FOURTH OF JULY FES-TIVAL...
I GOT THIS ONE WHEN WE BOUGHT A HOUSE IN WASHINGTON...
MY DAUGHTER SALLY GAVE ME THIS ONE...
AND THIS ONE'S FROM MY SON...
THIS IS THE FIRST TEDDY I BOUGHT AFTER COM-ING TO AMERICA...
GRAND-MA...
HIS FIRST WORDS TO ME WERE...
THIS IS FROM WHEN I FIRST MET HANS...

...PAPPY.
AND AT LAST SHE CAME TO HER FIRST BEAR...

YOU'RE ANNA.
ROSEMARY WAS FALLING BACK INTO HER MEMORIES--INTO HER PAST.
I GOT YOU TO BE WITH PAPPY.
LIKE AN HOURGLASS FLIPPED UPSIDE DOWN, THE LAST GRAINS OF MEMORY WERE THE FIRST TO FALL OUT OF THE CYLINDER.
WHILE THE OLD RECOLLECTIONS PATIENTLY WAITED TO FADE AWAY.
I REMEMBER THE THREE OF US ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT ACROSS THE GERMAN BORDER.
THERE IS NO GOING BACK.

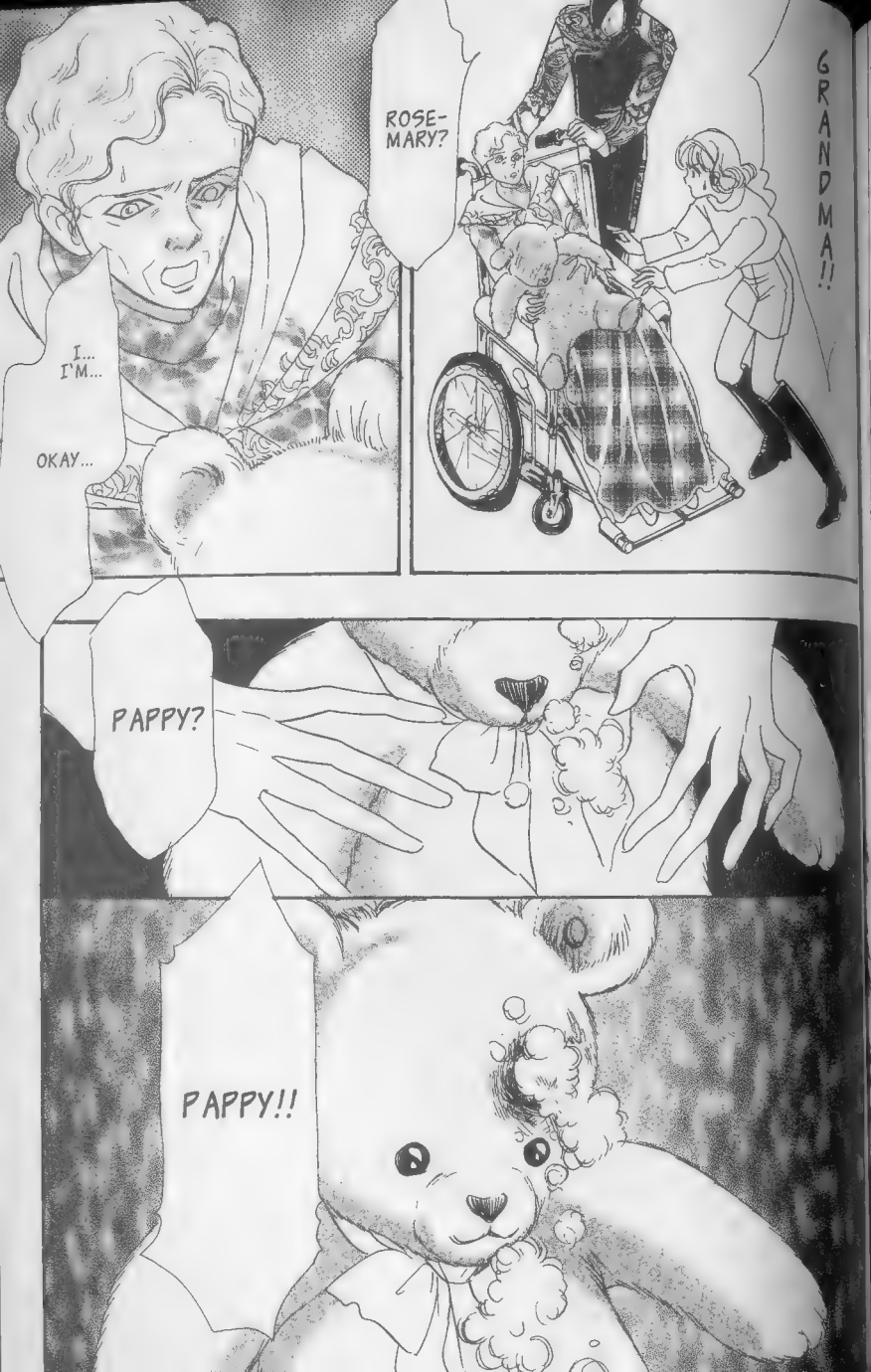

PAPPY ?!
UGH...
PAPPY !!
PAPPY, YOU SAVED ME!!
HAVE THEY DROPPED BOMBS? AM I DEAD?
IT'S SO COLD.
WHERE AM I?
OH PAPPY, YOU'RE SO WARM!
AAAAAGH!

HE SHALL PROTECT YOU... FOREVER.
FROM THIS DAY ON, PAPPY IS YOUR FAMILY.

WHO ARE YOU?
I AM COUNT D.
LISTEN CAREFULLY, ROSEMARY.
ROSEMARY?
HE KNOWS MY NAME?
DADDY... WHERE IS HE?
WHERE'S MY MOTHER?!
THAT TEDDY BEAR IS A GIFT FROM YOUR FATHER.
DADDY !

AAAAAH!!
THE TEMPLE! SOMEONE BLEW UP THE TEMPLE!
SHIT!!!
!!
HEY, YOU THERE! STOP!!

SO, SHE USED THE TEDDY BEARS TO HELP HER REMEMBER EVERYTHING BEFORE HER STROKE?
YES, RIGHT UP TO HER VERY FIRST ONE. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS SHE'S REMAINED IN THAT MEMORY.
SHE BELIEVES SHE'S STILL 12 YEARS OLD.
WELL, IT COULD BE WORSE. AT LEAST SHE DOESN'T THINK SHE'S A BABY. THINK OF THE MONEY HER FAMILY WOULD BLOW ON DIAPERS EACH YEAR.
CRUDE, BUT TRUE, I SUPPOSE.
SHE CAN LIVE ON WITHOUT THE FEAR OF OLD AGE OR DEATH.


GRANDMA!!
ROSE-MARY?
I... I'M...
OKAY...
PAPPY?
PAPPY!!

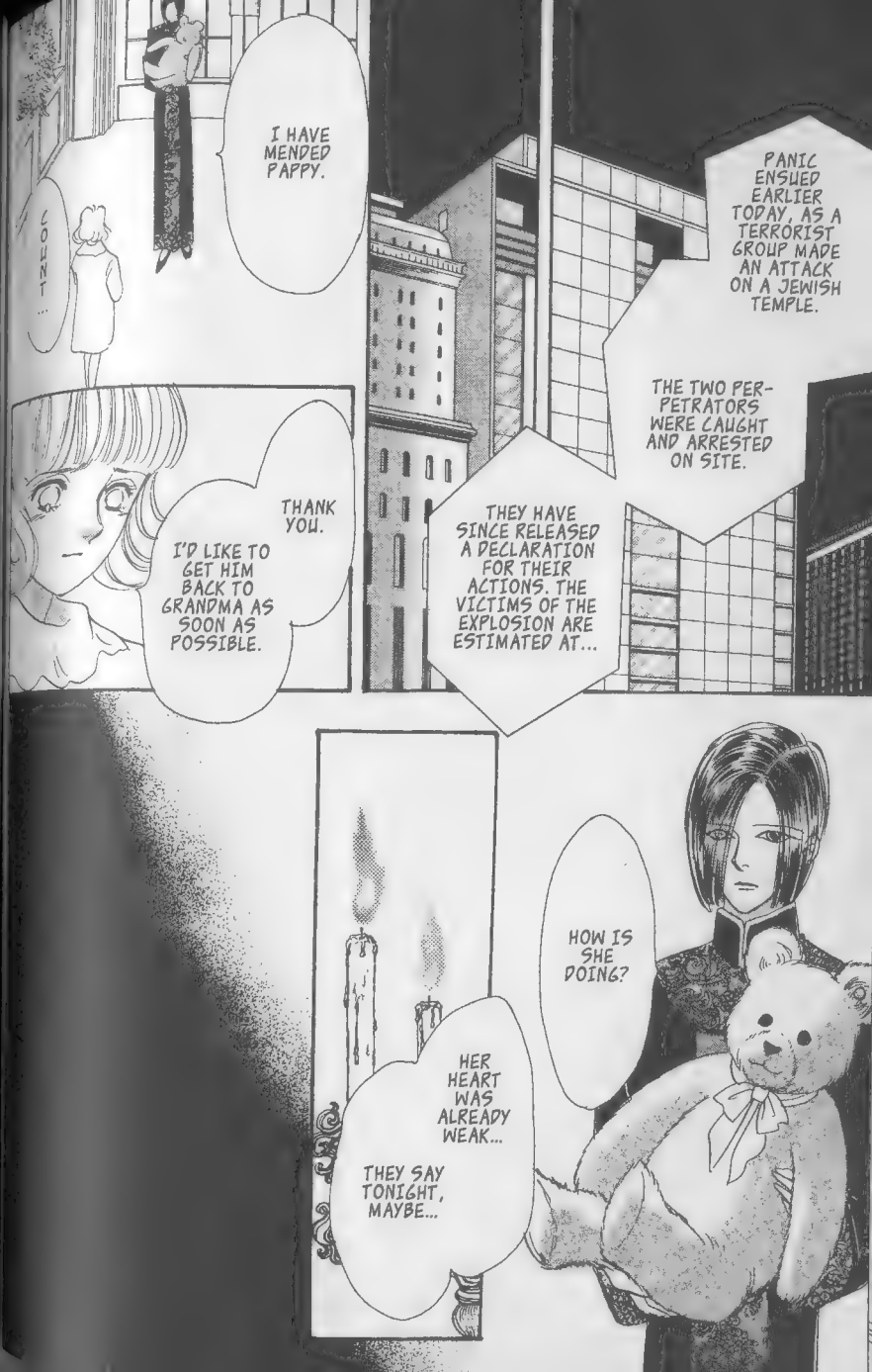
OFFICER, THERE ARE CIVILIANS PRESENT.
GODDAMMIT, D! STAY DOWN!!
HANDS UP! NOW!!
HELL...
FUCKING PIG!!
!!
!!

Sieg Heil !!
GRAND-MA?
GRANDMA !!
Sieg Heil !!

OFFICER EPSTEIN, RESTRAIN HIM!

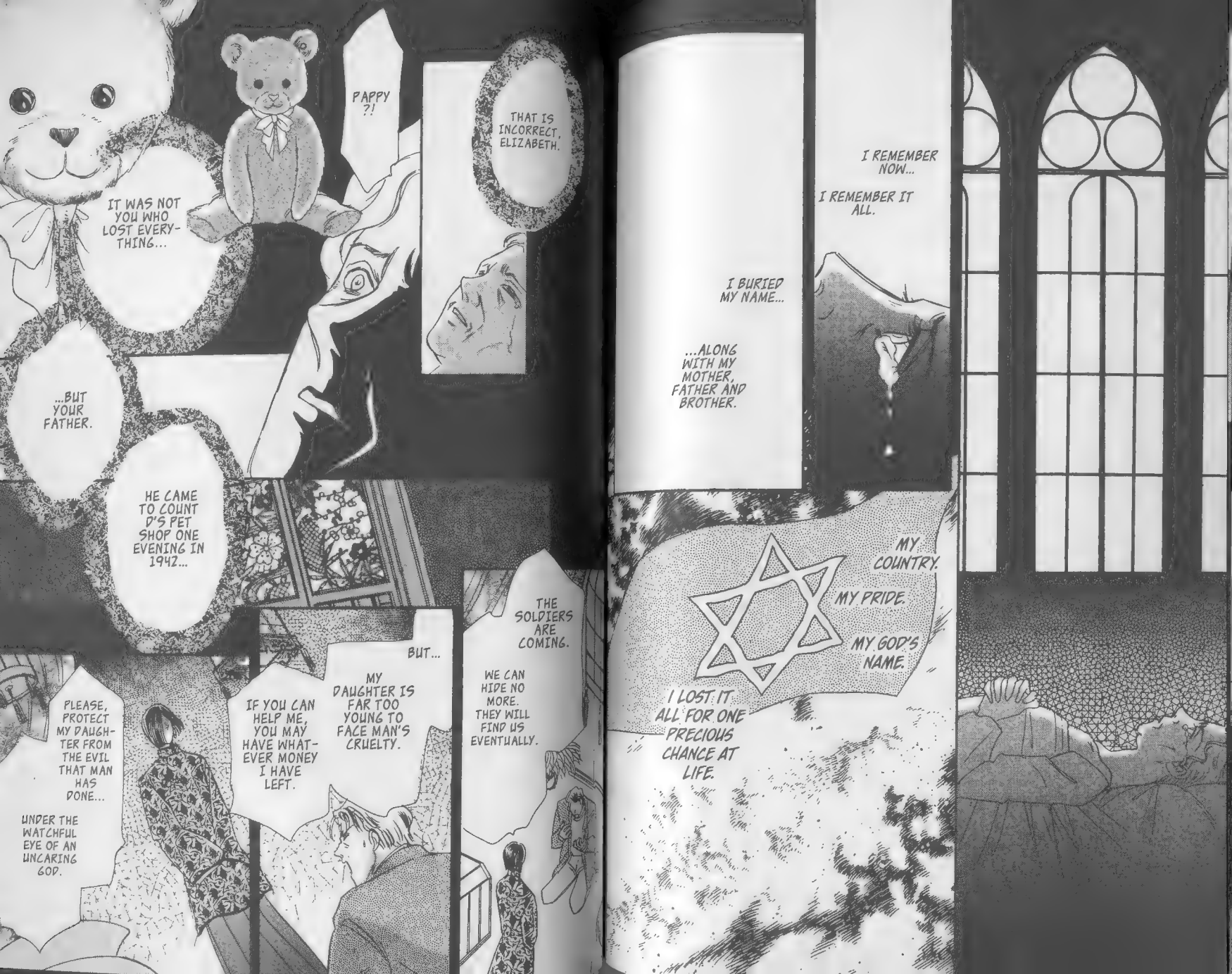
THE REST OF YOU AREN'T FIT TO BE OUR SLAVES!
WE ARE THE CHOSEN ONES. WE ARE THE ONES MADE IN HIS IMAGE!
EPSTEIN ?
JEWISH PIG. YOUR FILTHY KIND SHOULD BURN IN HELL!
I'VE HEARD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH FROM YOUR UGLY ASS!
AGH!
FASCISM LIVES ON! HEIL HITLER!

SHH!
FATHER, WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
THOSE ARE THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE DEVIL.
YOU MUST NEVER LET THEM FIND YOU. REMEMBER THAT, MY DEAR.


I HAVE MENDED PAPPY.
CONT...
THANK YOU.
I'D LIKE TO GET HIM BACK TO GRANDMA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
PANIC ENSUED EARLIER TODAY, AS A TERRORIST GROUP MADE AN ATTACK ON A JEWISH TEMPLE.
THE TWO PERPETRATORS WERE CAUGHT AND ARRESTED ON SITE.
THEY HAVE SINCE RELEASED A DECLARATION FOR THEIR ACTIONS. THE VICTIMS OF THE EXPLOSION ARE ESTIMATED AT...
HOW IS SHE DOING?
HER HEART WAS ALREADY WEAK...
THEY SAY TONIGHT, MAYBE...

ROSEMARY.
ELIZABETH?
YES. THAT'S MY NAME. ROSEMARY!
ME?
I WAS BORN HERE.
MY PARENTS ARE BOTH PEACEFUL GERMANS.
RAISED HERE.
I'M NOT JEWISH...
NOT A JEW...
I'M NOT!!!
I'M NOT JEWISH...

LISTEN WELL, MY DAUGHTER. WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
YOU MUST NOT OPEN THE DOOR WHEN THEY COME.
HIDE, AND DON'T MAKE A SOUND. AND IF THEY FIND YOU...
...DO NOT TELL THEM ABOUT ME OR YOUR MOTHER.
DON'T SAY WHERE YOU'RE FROM, OR THE NAME OF OUR HOME COUNTRY.
ELIZABETH?
AND MOST IMPORTANT, MY DEAR ELIZABETH, YOU MUST NEVER TELL THEM YOUR NAME.


IT WAS NOT YOU WHO LOST EVERY-THING...
...BUT YOUR FATHER.
HE CAME TO COUNT D'S PET SHOP ONE EVENING IN 1942...
PAPPY ?!
THAT IS INCORRECT, ELIZABETH.
PLEASE, PROTECT MY DAUGH-TER FROM THE EVIL THAT MAN HAS DONE...
UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF AN UNCARING GOD.
IF YOU CAN HELP ME, YOU MAY HAVE WHAT-EVER MONEY I HAVE LEFT.
BUT...
MY DAUGHTER IS FAR TOO YOUNG TO FACE MAN'S CRUELTY.
THE SOLDIERS ARE COMING.
WE CAN HIDE NO MORE. THEY WILL FIND US EVENTUALLY.
I REMEMBER NOW...
I REMEMBER IT ALL.
I BURIED MY NAME...
...ALONG WITH MY MOTHER, FATHER AND BROTHER.
MY COUNTRY.
MY PRIDE.
MY GOD'S NAME.
I LOST IT ALL FOR ONE PRECIOUS CHANCE AT LIFE.

COUNT D?
THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN FULFILLED.
A MEMORY WHICH PAPPY DEVOURED. THE MEMORY OF YOUR CHILDHOOD.
THIS BIBLE SEWN INTO PAPPY WAS WHAT PROTECTED YOU FROM THE BULLETS.
AND THIS PICTURE...
THE REAL ME... THE JEWISH...
ELIZABETH SCHNEIDER.

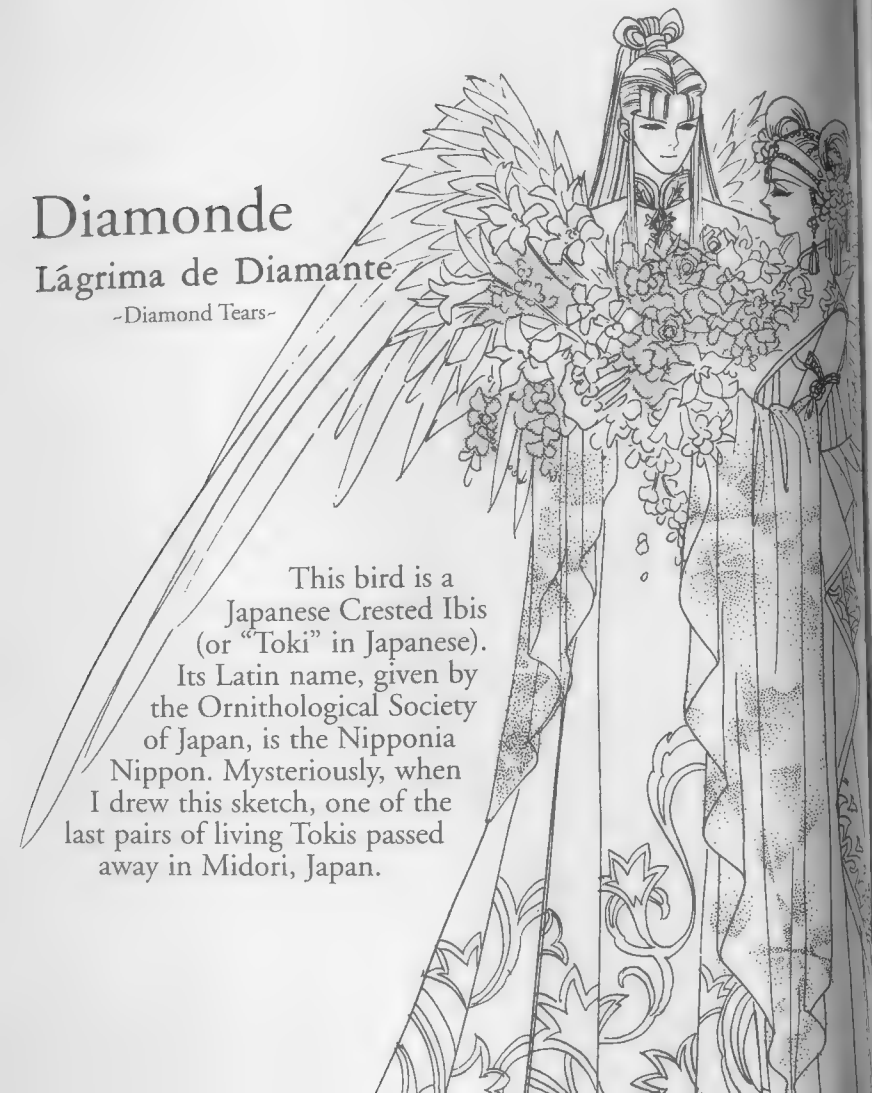
DEVIL?
YOU'LL GO SO FAR AS TO CONTRACT WITH THE DEVIL?
GOD HAS ABANDONED US. IF HE WILL NOT SAVE HER...
...THEN I SHALL SELL MY SOUL TO THE DEVIL INSTEAD.
I WILL...IF IT WILL SAVE MY DAUGHTER.
A PET TO WATCH OVER MY DAUGHTER FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.
PLEASE, SEND A PROTECTOR...
ONE THAT IS STRONG, BUT KIND...

THE PROBLEM WITH REALITY, ELIZABETH, IS THAT IT'S NEVER AS GOOD AS WHAT YOU IMAGINE.

PET CATALOG

ペットカタログ

No.3

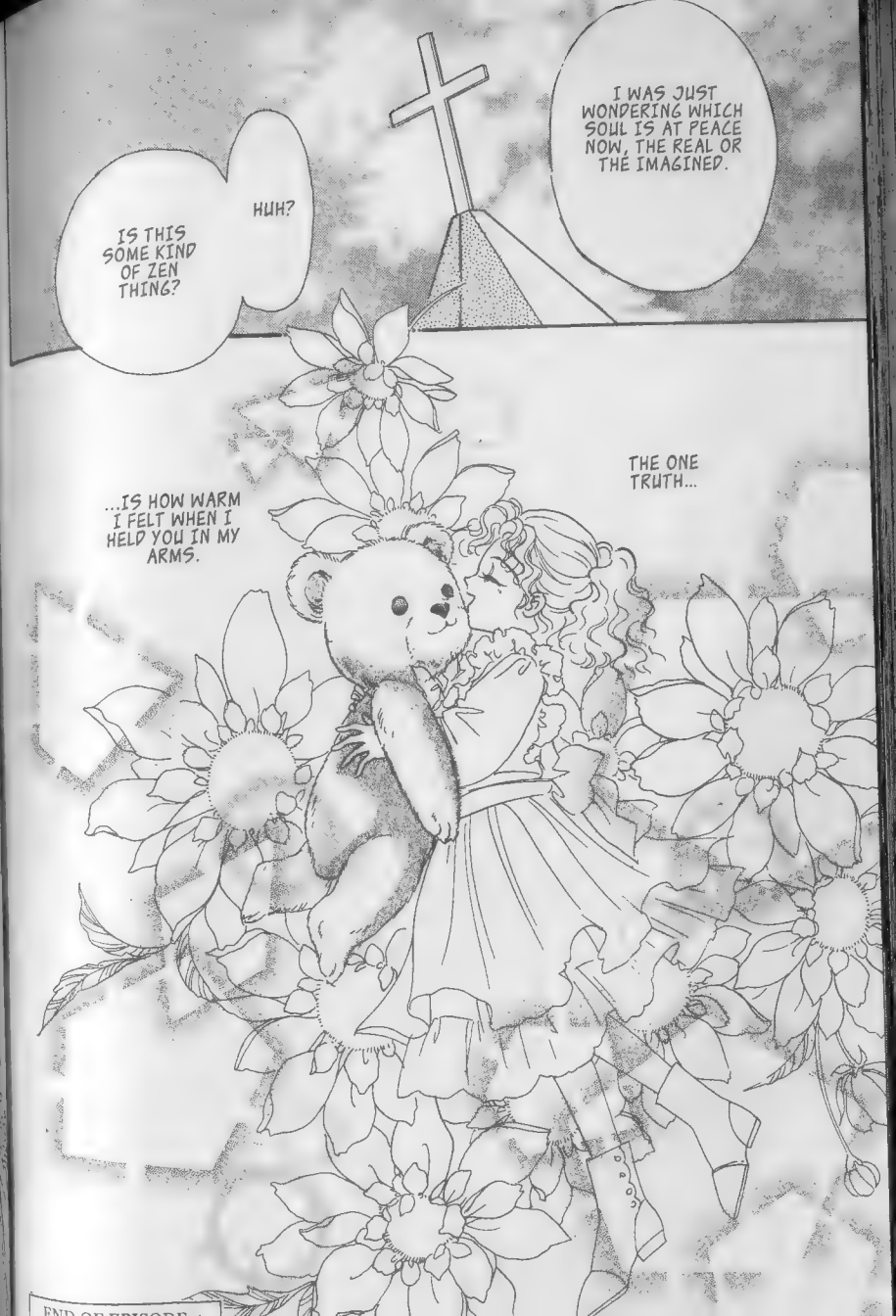


Diamonde

Lágrima de Diamante

~Diamond Tears~

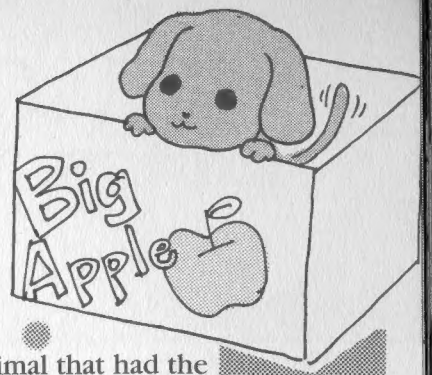
This bird is a Japanese Crested Ibis (or "Toki" in Japanese). Its Latin name, given by the Ornithological Society of Japan, is the Nipponia Nippon. Mysteriously, when I drew this sketch, one of the last pairs of living Tokis passed away in Midori, Japan.


I WAS JUST WONDERING WHICH SOUL IS AT PEACE NOW, THE REAL OR THE IMAGINED.
HUH?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF ZEN THING?
THE ONE TRUTH...
...IS HOW WARM I FELT WHEN I HELD YOU IN MY ARMS.

Devil
(テディ・ベア)

Do you know that the "teddy" in teddy bear is in reference to former U.S. President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt? It was invented in 1902 by a toy store owner named Morris Michtom, who modeled it after a Washington *Star* political cartoon. He intended it just as a store display (with the bear displayed next to the cartoon), but it proved extremely popular and eventually became the worldwide phenomenon that it remains to this day. As for why Rosemarie's guardian took the form of a teddy bear, I can only tell you that D's grandfather thought of them as being "devilish pets." His reasons for this, however, remain a mystery.

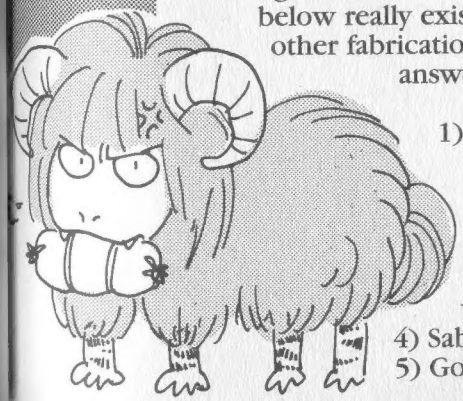
Desire



My second dog story. This time about a Labrador.

Legend tells of a rare animal that had the face of a human, horns of a sheep, and a tiger's fangs, that roamed the hills of ancient China. The beast was capable of eating large quantities of just about anything, often dining on unsuspecting travelers.

I've often been surprised by some of the ingredients found in Chinese food. However, the notion of a dog's embryo being the world's greatest delicacy has to be credited to Yasuhiro Imagawa, the director of both *G Gundam* and the popular culinary anime, *Mister Agikko*. Rest assured, the story was completely fabricated. Chinese cuisine is still blessedly canine embryo-free. However, that doesn't mean that some of their dishes aren't rather strange. Let's see if you can guess which of the dishes below really exist and which are other fabrications. Look for the answer in Volume 4.



1) Phoenix flower peach tree
2) Underwater white flower apricot seed
3) Beautiful women's lips
4) Sabaiyen mousse
5) Golden swallow

Dessert
珍食 號食

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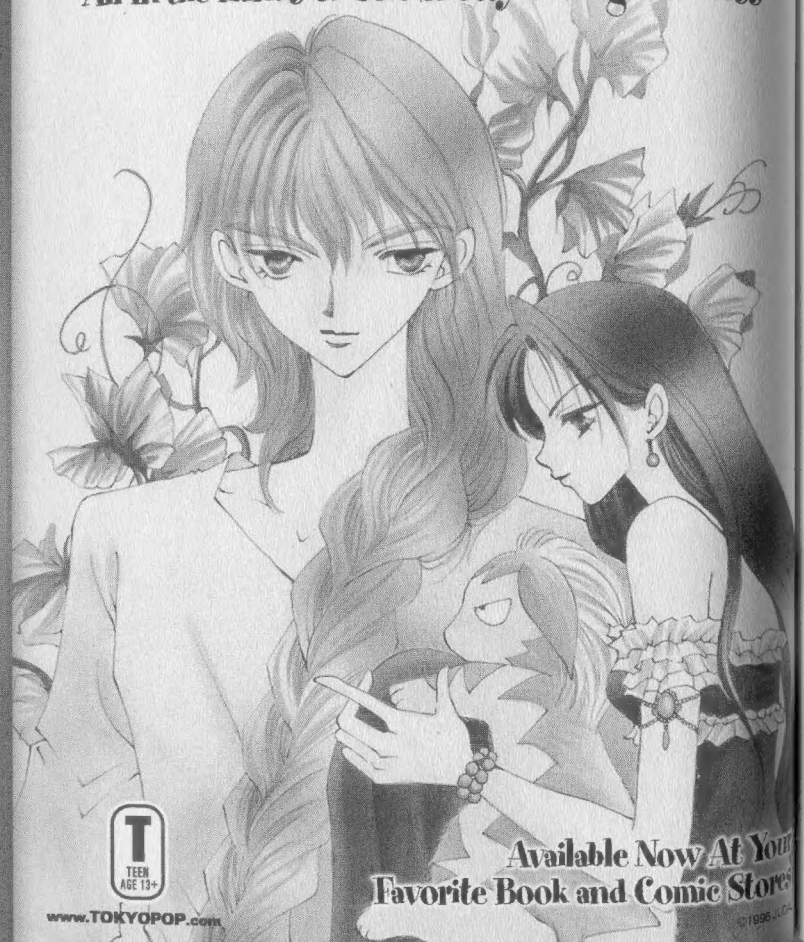

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TEEN
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Next issue...

Count D returns in the following tales of terror:

DIGITAL:
When a brutal murder leads Officer Orcot and the department to an unusual witness, solving the case comes down to the cooperation of one man...Count D.

DARK HORSE:
The high stakes world of horse racing serves as the backdrop to this lively story. D befriends a young horse breeder, but when she refuses to sell him her prized thoroughbred, all bets are off.

DRACULA:
A serial killer's murder spree has led him directly to Officer Orcot's beloved city, and D would appear to be his next victim. Assigned to protect him, Officer Orcot can't help but notice some of the Count's odd behavior, such as his apparent lust for blood...

FLOWERS & THE DETECTIVE, PARTS 1 & 2:
The animal kingdom steps aside for the world of plants in these two intriguing side stories that flesh out the relationship between Count D and Officer Orcot.

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DIAMONDE:
Officer Orcot is charged with protecting a marked woman, but even Orcot never would have expected the Count to be the assassin.

DESIRE:
Young Maggie is bored with her dog. When Count D offers her a much more exciting pet in exchange, will Maggie grow tired of it as well...or will the pet tire of her new master?

DESSERT:
A string of high profile disappearances has Officer Orcot hobnobbing with the city's elite, but after catching the Count in their midst, his list of suspects is shortened to one name.

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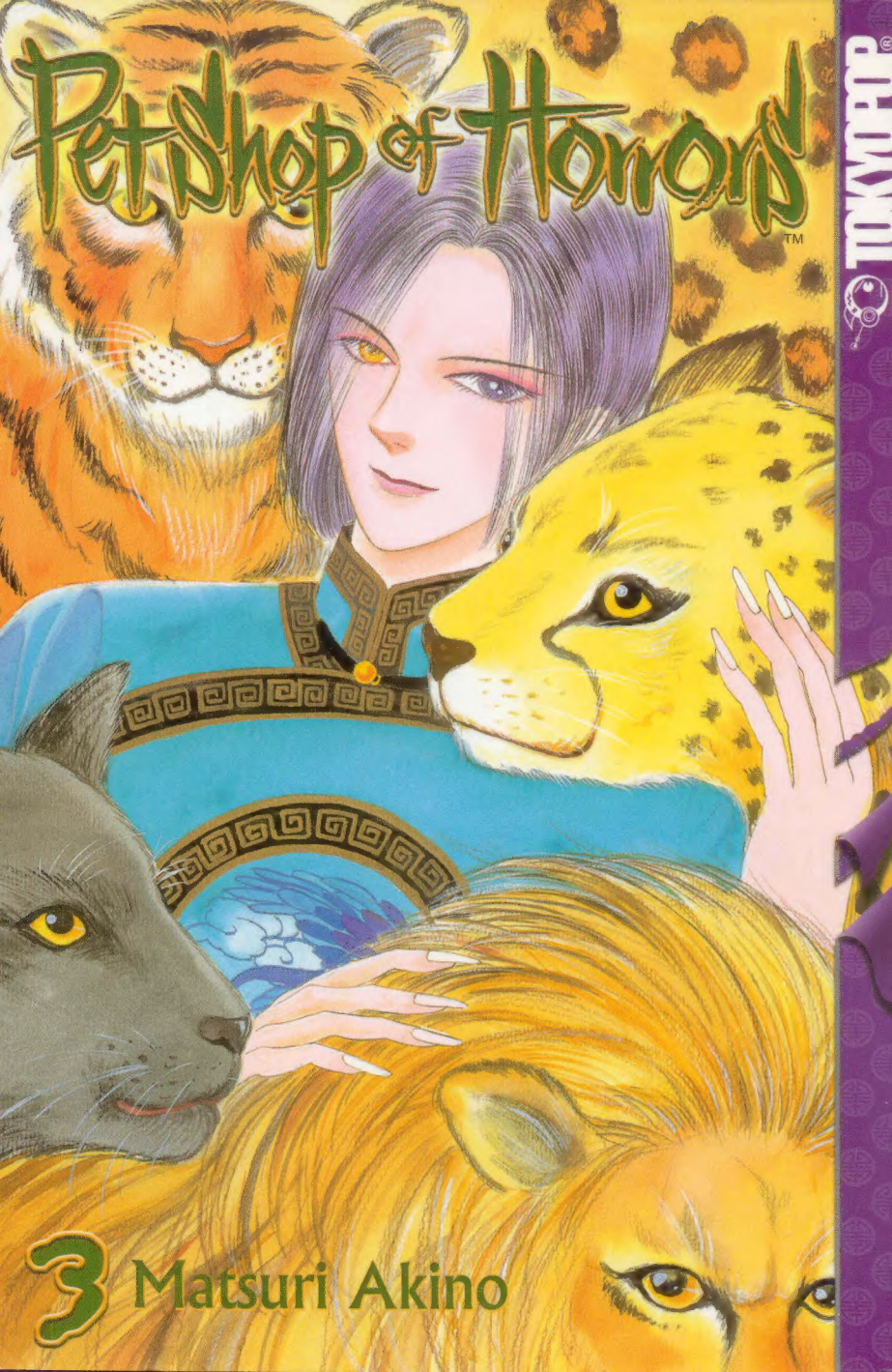
Pet Shop of Horrors
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3
Matsuri Akino